

# RAJASTHAN DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



## SIROHI

*By*

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## CONVERSION TABLE

### Length

- 1 inch = 2.54 centimetres
- 1 foot = 30.48 centimetres
- 1 yard = 91.44 centimetres
- 1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

### Area

- 1 square foot = 0.093 square metres
- 1 square yard = 0.836 square metres
- 1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres
- 1 acre = 0.405 hectare

### Volume

- 1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

### Capacity

- 1 gallon (Imperial) = 4.55 litres
- 1 seer (80 tola) = 0.937 litre

### Weight

- 1 tola = 11.66 grams
- 1 chhatak = 58.32 grams
- 1 seer = 933.10 grams
- 1 maund = 37.32 kilograms
- 1 palam = 34.99 grams
- 1 ounce = 28.35 grams
- 1 pound = 453.59 grams
- 1 ton = 1016.05 kilograms

### Temperature

- $t^{\circ}\text{ Fahrenheit} = 9/5 (T^{\circ}\text{ centigrade}) + 32$

## Metric Weights & Measures

### Length

- 10 millimetres = 1 centimetre
- 100 centimetres = 1 metre

1000 metres=1 kilometre

### Area

100 square millimetres=1 square centimetre

10,000 square centimetres=1 square metre or centiare

100 square metres=1 are

100 ares=1 hectare

100 hectares or 1,000,000 square metres=1 sq. k. metres

### Volume

1,000,000 cubic centimetres=1 cubic metre

### Capacity

1000 millilitres=1 litre

1000 litres=1 kilolitre

### Weights

1000 milligrams=1 gram

1000 grams=1 kilogram

100 kilograms=1 quintal

1000 kilograms=1 tonne

200 milligrams=1 carat

## PREFACE

This volume is the fifth in the series of District Gazetteers for Rajasthan State. The boundaries of the present Sirohi District coincide with those of the former State of Sirohi. The rulers of Sirohi in 1845 seceded to the British Government certain portions of Abu on a long term lease. The political history of Abu Taluka after independence, has attracted much attention. It was in several stages that the entire area was restored to Rajasthan and finally, since the reorganisation of States in 1956, it forms part of the district. A brief account of Sirohi area is available in Volume XXIII of the series of the Imperial Gazetteer of India which was published in 1908. Later, K. D. Erskine collected certain portions from the series of Rajputana Gazetteers 'as related to the Sirohi State' and these were published in 1910 under the title 'A Gazetteer of Sirohi State and some Statistical Tables.'

As in case of other gazetteers, Erskine's compilation referred to above, was 'intended solely for the use of Sirohi Darbar and its officials, or of political and medical officers connected with this State.....'. The purpose of District Gazetteers now being compiled in accordance with the general pattern approved by the Government of India, is wide. While, therefore, free use of the material available in the old gazetteers and administration reports has been made in compiling this volume, the bulk of the material had to be collected from indigenous sources and on the spot enquiries as the old gazetteer did not contain any information, on the majority of chapters comprising the volume.

We are obliged to the various departments of the State and Central Governments, other organisations and

individuals for extending their co-operation in the collection of the material. We are thankful to the Central Gazetteers Unit for their co-operation and valuable suggestions in the preparation of the volume. We are also thankful to Shri B. S. Mehta, Ex-Chief Secretary and Shri K.P.U. Menon, the present Chief Secretary, for their valuable guidance in this work.

The map of the district included in the volume, has been prepared by the Survey of India.

The work on this volume was started by Shri D. C. Joseph, the then Director, which was subsequently taken up by Shri B. N. Dhoundiyal who submitted the first draft to the Central Gazetteers Unit. Later on Shri Maya Ram who took over as Director, revised certain chapters and incorporated the suggestions made by the Central Gazetteers Unit. In keeping with the convention, however, the volume is being published in the name of Shri Dhoundiyal.

The officers of this Directorate have done useful team work in the preparation of this volume.

K. K. SEHGAL

**Director, District Gazetteers,  
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# GAZETTEER OF SIROHI DISTRICT

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# CHAPTER I

## GENERAL

### INTRODUCTORY

#### Origin of name

The district is called after its headquarters, the town of Sirohi, and the latter is said to have taken its name from the Saranwa hill, on the western slope of which it stands<sup>1</sup>. Tod in his *Travels in Western India*, has suggested that the name of the territory might have been derived from its position at the head (*sir*) of the desert (*rohi*). It has also been suggested that the original name of the town was 'Shivpuri' of which the present name is a derivative. Sirohi also means 'sword' and this has led some people to believe that this State of brave Deora Chauhans received its present name due to the widespread fame of its swords.

In Puranic traditions, this area has always been referred to as Arbudh Pradesh. It was regarded as part of *Marubhumi*<sup>2</sup>. Thus we learn from *Vishnu Purana* that "in the extreme west are Saurashtras, Suras, Abhiras, Arbudhas etc. dwelling along the Paripatra mountains."

In Ptolemy's map of India, (150 A.D.)<sup>3</sup> this area has been shown as '*Apocopi Mount*' or the detached mount. He calls it *apocopi montes deorum poena appellati*. The

1. Pandit Gauri Shankar Ojha also subscribed to this view. In the bardic literature also the tract is referred to as 'Siranva'.
2. References to this area can be found in *Skanda Purana*, and in the works of Virahmihir, Raj Sekhar, Damodar Gupta (a Kashmiri poet) and the Jain Scholar, Harsha. For details see 'Abu Committee Report' 1952.
3. *The Classical Accounts of India* by R.C. Majumdar, Calcutta 1960; Map.

1	2	3	4
Pindwara	99	1,124 (434 sq.miles)	77
Reodar	120	1,225 (473 " )	72
Sheoganj	69	894 (345 " )	59
Sirohi	84	1,173 (453 „ )	86
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>5,203 (2009 sq. miles) sq. km.</b>	<b>352</b>

Thus tahsil Sirohi is the most densely populated and tahsil Reodar is the largest in area.

### Towns

In the 1961 Census, 5 towns are listed, viz., Mount Abu, Abu Road, Pindwara, Sheoganj and Sirohi.

A description of these towns has been reserved for the last chapter.

### TOPOGRAPHY

The district is in the shape of an irregular triangle, with the apex near the village of Harji in the extreme north and the base extending west by north-west from a point where the territories of the former States of Sirohi, Idar and Danta met.

It is much broken up by hills and rocky ranges. The main feature is the almost isolated mountain of Abu, the highest peak of which, Guru Sikhar, rises 5,650 feet (1,722 m.) above the sea level. The mountain is situated near the southern border. It is separated by a narrow pass from



an adjacent range of narrow hills which runs in a north-easterly direction almost as far as Sheoganj and divides the district into two not very unequal parts. Most of the area in tahsils Reodar, Sirohi and Sheoganj lies in the western part of these hills. It is comparatively open and level, and consequently, more populous and better cultivated.

The western part of tahsil Reodar, bordering tahsil Jaswantpura of Jalore district, approaches the likeness of a sandy desert area. In other parts of the tahsil the soil is black or '*dhami*'. Three-fourth of the area under tahsil Sheoganj is covered with sandy-soil. The north-western portion of tahsil Sirohi is similar but in the south-west, this tahsil has hard rocky soil. The whole of Pindwara tahsil lies in the eastern part and is mostly covered by hills with some fairly open spaces; predominant soil types in these areas being black and sandy loam. In Abu tahsil, the Aravalli hills form a wall in the east and between them and Abu-Sirohi range is a narrow valley (from 1,000 ft. or 305 m. to 1,200 ft. or 366 m. above the sea level) through which runs the metre-gauge line of Delhi-Ahmedabad section of Western Railway.

### Hills

As mentioned earlier the Abu-Sirohi range divides the district in two parts. In the western area there are four groups of scattered hills—one each in tahsils Sirohi and Sheoganj and two in tahsil Reodar. These are off shoots of the Aravalli range.

The Jairaj group of hills in tahsil Reodar lies in the east of river Sukli in villages Padar, Onchaliya, Dhibri, Rampur, Bادهchi, Bhatana and Bherugarh. The group becomes denser as it enters the territories of Gujarat. The highest hill in this group is Jairaj near Padar village with a total length of 5 miles (8 km.), the highest point being 3,575 ft. (1,090 m.) above the sea level.

Across river Sukli in the western most part of this tahsil is the Nandwar group of hills covering an area of about 95 square miles (246 sq. km.) in the villages of Gondwara, Sunani, Kusma, Rohua, Kesua, Nibaj, Jeerawal, etc. A detached section of this group forms a wall along the western border. Highest points are, a peak in the north-east of village Rohua

(2,280 ft. i.e. 695 m. above the sea level) and Nibaj (3,277 ft. or 999 m.)

Another scattered group of hills can be said to begin with the isolated hillocks in village Pamera and extend to villages Sanpur, Positra, Vardara, Balda, Sartara, Varal etc. in tahsil Sirohi. The water falling east of this area is drained by river Sukli which flows in south-westerly direction while the western sector is drained by rivers Kapalganga and Kachmaoli, both flowing north-west. The highest point is an isolated peak west of village Mandwara reaching a height of 1,914 ft. or 583 m. above the sea level. There are two points above 1,000 ft. (305 m.) near village Sanwara and Sanpur respectively.

In the extreme north of the district, a branch of detached hills runs to northern direction. It enters Pali at a point west of village Revada in tahsil Sheoganj. The south-west fringes of this group begin with an isolated peak reaching the height of 2,098 ft. (639 m.) near village Sagaliya. Some of the villages through which these hills run are Van, Las, Taleta, Alpa, Jharoli and Gola. There are at least four other peaks more than 2,000 ft. (610 m.) above sea level viz. at various points west of villages Mochhal (2,181 ft. or 665 m.), Jogpura (2,365 ft. or 721 m.), Alpa (2,242 ft. or 683 m.) and Revada (2,284 ft. or 696 m.) respectively.

These four scattered groups of hills are marked feature of the area west of middle ranges, which is otherwise mostly level and sandy. There exist numerous small hillocks defying any classification. Rivers in the northern half of this area viz. Kapalganga, Kachmaoli, Krishnavati, Khari and Sukri flow in north-west direction. The southern part of this area is drained by Sukli and its tributaries. Sukli flows in south-west direction. Its western tributaries mostly flow towards east or north-east. The eastern tributaries mainly flow towards west and north-west. And the north-western tributary, which originates near village Burarikhera in Abu hills, flows through village Tokra towards north-west and then changes its course abruptly to south-west.

#### **The Middle or Abu-Sirohi Range**

The Sirohi ranges can be regarded as the lower skirts and outlying spurs of Aravallis. The isolated mountain of

Abu is separated from these ranges by a narrow pass near village Isra. These run in a north-easterly direction as far as the town of Sheoganj in the north and are much lower than the Abu ranges. The highest peak, south-east of village Sambaria, is 3,391 ft. i.e. 1,034 m.

Tributaries of Krishnavati and Khari drain western portion of these ranges, Sukri drains the northern portion and the tributaries of Western Banas drain the eastern parts.

### Mount Abu

It is a detached hill of Aravalli range situated somewhat south-east of the centre of the Sirohi district, between  $24^{\circ}31'$  and  $24^{\circ}43'$  N. and  $72^{\circ}38'$  and  $72^{\circ}53'$  E. As mentioned earlier, it is separated from Sirohi ranges by a narrow valley. Another valley, seven miles across, separates it from an eastern chain of Aravalli hills. Through this valley flows the Western Banas. It rises suddenly from a flat plain like a rocky island lying off the sea coast of a continent. In shape it is long and narrow, but the top spreads out into a picturesque plateau nearly 4,000 ft. (1,219 m.) above the sea, about twelve miles (19 km.) in length and two to three (5 to 8 km.) in breadth. The natural features are very bold, and the slopes, especially on the western and northern sides, extremely precipitous; on the east and south, the outline is more broken by spurs with deep valleys between. The traveller when ascending the mountain, can hardly fail to be impressed with the grand and beautiful scenery; the gigantic blocks of syenitic rocks, towering along the crest of the hill, are especially striking, being in some cases so weather-worn as to present the most fanciful and weird shapes, while in others, they appear so slightly balanced as to be in danger of rolling down. In places, too, the face of the cliffs has been moulded into rounded caverns and holes resembling the section of a largely magnified sponge, while the brow often over-looks an absolute precipice, three or four hundred feet of sheer descent. The scenery in the interior of Abu is soft and romantic rather than grand, but very beautiful of its kind. The constant succession of hills and valleys, with occasional peeps of the distant plains, and the black, grey and purple tints of the curious and grotesquely shaped rocks, contrasting with the variegated green of the trees and shrubs, all combine to form the most charming landscape scenery. As may be expected, it is during and just after the rains that the place wears its most pleasing aspect.

The station of Mount Abu, is about 4,000 ft. (1,219 m.) above sea level; it is built on an irregular plateau, surrounded by several projecting peaks and elevated ridges. Oria another considerable plateau, is about five miles (8 km.) from Abu Station; it is 500 ft. (152 m.) higher than Abu, and lies below the main peak of Guru Sikhar, and somewhat south of that elevation. This plateau is surrounded by low ridges. It contains three small tanks, which hold water for a great part of the year, and has some good wells close to the villages on it. It is cooler than Abu, and would be a good site for a sanatorium, if sufficient water could be assured.

Towards the northern extremity of these hills is Guru Sikhar (the hermit's pinnacle) towering 5,650 ft. (1,722 m.) above the sea level. It is the highest point between the Himalayas and Nilgiris. Other prominent peaks are near village Ser, north-east of Guru Sikhar (5,241 ft. or 1,597 m.), further north (4,435 ft. or 1,352 m.), Achalgarh (4,528 ft. or 1,380 m.) and three peaks situated in west of Delwara (4,731 ft. or 1,442 m.) south of Abu (4,248 ft. or 1,295 m.) and north east of Rishikesh (3,338 ft. or 1,017 m.) respectively.

The slopes and base of this mountain are clothed with fairly dense forests of the various trees common to the plains and the neighbouring Aravalli range, interspersed with great stretches of bamboo jungle. On the higher parts, humid types appear which are quite unknown below. Owing to its comparatively heavy rainfall, Abu is, as regards vegetation, by far the richest spot in Rajasthan. The flora is described in detail later in this chapter.

### **The Eastern Ranges**

East of the Abu hills, across the valley of Banas, is the tract known as *Bhakar*, which consists of successive ranges of steep and rugged hills of no great height. This part of the country was formerly notorious as a refuge for marauders and out-laws, and is inhabited by *Girasia*s and *Bhils*, who caused much damage to the forests by felling and burning trees, preparatory to practising that peculiar system of agriculture, styled *Walar* or *Walra*. The system is, however, on the decline now due to stricter enforcement of forest conservation rules and the settling down of the tribal people to better practices of cultivation. The higher points in these ranges are—3,027 ft. (923 metre), near village Men, 2,842 ft.

( 866 m.) near village Uparlagadh, and 2,812 ft. (857 m.) near village Tankia.

The continuity of this group of hills forming the eastern boundary of the district is broken at a place south-east of village Rohera for a mile or so, and the range north of this village are more scattered. The highest points of these hills in tahsil Pindwara are:—

3,599 ft. (1097 m.) near village Savela (S.E. of village)  
 2,648 ft. (807 m.) near village Savela (S.E. of village)  
 2,460 ft. (750 m.) near village Nawawas (N.E. of village)  
 2,340 ft. (713 m.) near village Nawawas (East of village)

### RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

All the hill ranges of this district are intersected by numerous water channels. These run with considerable force and volume during the rainy season but are dry for the greater part of the year. There are two lines of watershed, from which streams run north-west and south-west to join the Luni and the Western Banas. These are, one, the somewhat elevated plain west of the northern point of Abu and, two, the low range of hills crossing the eastern valley at Pindwara.

#### Rivers joining Luni

*Jawai*—It is the largest and longest of the rivers of north-west, which eventually join Luni. Rising in the Aravalli hills near the base of the Belkar peak and flowing through the villages of Badgam, Akhapura, Kalapura and Chandana, it forms the boundary between Pali and Sirohi. It passes close to Sheoganj on the north-eastern border and after crossing village Chandana enters district Pali. Flowing north-west for five to six miles (eight to ten km.) in Pali, it re-enters the north-eastern fringe of the district in village Lakhmava-Bada and crosses the district after flowing through the village Lakhmava-Chhota. Thus it flows in or along the borders of Sirohi only for eight miles (13 km.).

*Sukri*—The Sukri has its sources in the hills south of Nana, and, after flowing for about nine miles (14 km.) through district Pali, it enters Sirohi in village Sibagam. Forming the boundary between villages Sibagam and Chotila, it flows towards north-west for about four miles (6 km.). Thereafter

it changes its course abruptly towards the north. After passing through villages Guda and Rukhada it progressively changes its course towards north-west. The Ajmer-Sirohi road crosses it through an Irish bridge between villages Posaliya and Khandra. After crossing village Joela, it enters Pali. It re-enters this district near village Buderī and is joined by a tributary before it enters village Revada. Its total length is 29 miles (47 km.) and it joins river Jawai near Revada village within the district. It drains an area of about 210 sq. miles, i.e., 544 sq. km.

*Khari*—The various *nalas* which form this river rise on the western slopes of the hills north of Sirohi town in villages Jodwadakhara, Kolar, Veravilpur and Palri, and unite about seven miles (11 km.) from their source at the village Ora. Thence the river continues in a north-westerly direction through villages Akhapura, Mandani, Savali, Naradara, Lotiwarakalan and after crossing village Ummidgarh, is joined on the left bank by river Krishnavati. It joins Sukri at approximately  $72^{\circ}27'$  longitude and  $25^{\circ}16'$  latitudes in Jalore district. The total length of this river is 42 miles (68 km.) of which about 20 miles (32 km.) lie in Sirohi district. The Khari drains an area of about 130 sq. miles (337 sq. km.) in this district, and a dam has been constructed for a storage reservoir at Ora.

*Krishnavati*—The most important tributary of Khari is Krishnavati. Its northern branch, called Kameri, rising in village Kavakhara in the north of Abu flows in a north-west direction through villages Dhanta, Sindrath, Kharwai and Pipalki. The rain falling in the western slopes of the hills is drained by it while a tributary of Western Banas drains the eastern slopes. The southern branch of Krishnavati rises near village Belangri and flows towards north through villages Vedeli, Mamavali, Angor, and Padiv. These branches join each other in village Madwara whence the course of the river turns towards west. Between villages Manera and Varada it changes its course to north and after crossing the district at a point north-west of village Satapura, joins river Khari near Ummidgarh, after running its total course of 34 miles (55 km.).

*Kachmaoli or Bodi*—Its course lies between those of Krishnavati and Kapalganga. It rises in the hills of Kuma and passing through Motagaon (now known as Mohabbatnagar) and Bavli, enters Jalore, where it falls into Krishnavati.

*Kapalganga*—It rises in the hills south of vil Kakendra and after flowing north-west through Positra, Mandwara and Madiya changes its course to west and enters Jalore district at a point west of village Akoona. The river has a total length of 20 miles (32 km.) of which 16 miles (26 km.) lie in Sirohi and 4 miles (6 km.) in Jalore. This river joins Bandi at approximately  $72^{\circ}29'$  longitude and  $24^{\circ}58'$  latitude, near village Chandur in Jalore district.

*Sukli*—It is the most important tributary of Western Banas and drains the south-western portion of the district lying between Abu and the Nibaj hills. The eastern branch of Sukli rises in the hills near Dantrai, and flows first south-east and next south by south-west about fourteen miles (23 km.) till it joins the eastern branch near Jawal. Near village Bhikanvas it is joined on the left bank by a rivulet. It then passes through villages Reodar, Vasan, and Magri Wara, etc.

The eastern branch of Sukli comes from Sanwara hills and the north-western slopes of Abu and has a length of 25 miles (40 km.) as far as Jawal. One of its tributaries rises north of village Nagani and flowing south-east through Dangrali and Positra and joins the main branch on its right bank. Another stream rising near village Utraj Gurusikhar flows north-west through villages Burari Khera and Tokra and then changing its course to south-west joins the central branch on its left bank in village Malgam. After drawing water from these streams, the eastern branch of Sukli becomes quite a broad river with high banks, though its bed is usually dry soon after the rains.

After Jawal, the united streams under the name of Sipu continue in a south-westerly direction, through villages Jugadra and Rampura and thence through the territory of Banaskantha district of Gujrat till they fall into the Western Banas near Chota Ranpur.

*Western Banas*—It is by far the most important river of the district, draining almost all the area east of Abu-Sirohi range in tahsils Pindwara and Abu Road. It rises in the hills behind the town of Sirohi, drawing water from *nalas* flowing through villages Naya Sanwara, Rajpura, Kotra and Juna Sanwara. It flows for ten miles (16 km.) in a south-easterly direction as far as Jharoli (near Pindwara)

where it turns to the south-west. Near village Kotra, it is joined on its right bank by a stream which rises near village Virwara and flows in a south-easterly direction through villages Arasna and Nadiya.

Another stream rising in the eastern slopes of hills of village Valoriya and flowing in a south-westerly direction for some 13 miles (21 km.) through villages Vasa, Rohira, Vatera, Bhiman and Bharja, joins Western Banas on the left bank near the railway station of Kivarli. Two more minor streams join Banas from right before it crosses the district a little below Mawal railway station. The total length of Western Banas is about 50 miles (80 km.). It eventually loses itself in the sand at the head of Rann of Cutch. Within Sirohi limits Western Banas is not perennial, and usually ceases to flow about the middle of cold weather, leaving pools of water here and there. The bed is sandy and rocky, and the banks, though never high, are often shelving. Like all mountain torrents, the river is subject to occasional floods, but these soon subside, leaving the stream fordable and the water clear and good. Near Abu Road it is crossed by a fine bridge of seventeen spans, each of thirty-five feet, which was constructed between 1887 and 1889 at a cost of about a lakh of rupees contributed partly by the erstwhile states of Rajputana whose interests also were served by it.

### Floods

In the years of unusually heavy rainfall the rivers and mountain streams come down in considerable volume, and inundate all low lying areas in the vicinity. In 1875, it rained incessantly on Abu for a week, and the floods which were unprecedented, carried away many Persian Wheels they came across and caused much damage to the *kharif* crops. A somewhat similar calamity befell in September 1893, but was less destructive.

Another year of unusual floods was 1941, when nearly 24 inches (610 m.m.) of rainfall fell between August 12 and August 14. The damage to houses and other property was most severe in Abu Road and Sirohi towns and to wells in Sheoganj. In all, ten persons (seven in tahsil Sheoganj and three in tahsil Abu Road) and 2,116 cattle were drowned. Also about 3,640 houses and 264 wells were either washed away or damaged. The total loss of property was estimated at rupees one lakh. Relief measures on the part of the State



included a sanction of Rs. 15,000 for gratuitous relief and *taccavi*, remission on forest duty, suspension of the execution of all civil decrees upto Rs. 250/- for six months and opening of relief works by the P. W. D. costing Rs. 7,590. The people of Sirohi, Sheoganj, Abu Road and Pindwara towns and the state servants raised a relief fund of Rs. 11,313.

Rainfall during 1943-44 was also very heavy, especially from July 15 to August 28, 1943. Between these dates as much as 12 inches (305 m.m.) of rainfall was recorded at some places within a few hours. Heaviest damage was caused in tahsil Reodar where village Chhota Rohua was practically submerged, a large number of livestock was washed away and traffic remained dislocated for about a month. Mandar, another village in the same tahsil, also suffered heavily. The figures for rainfall are given below, (rainfall figures for the previous year are also given for comparison):—

(1 Inch=25.4 m.m.)

Name of place	Rainfall in 1942-43	Rainfall in 1943-44
Sirohi	28.12 inches	55.99 inches
Abu Road	40.5 „	58.35 „
Sheoganj	24.96 „	32.32 „
Pindwara	28.51 „	50.24 „
Reodar	31.55 „	77.97 „
Delwara	101.11 „	154.99 „

The floods caused a Malaria epidemic which raged furiously for about 2 months throughout the state. Relief measures taken by the state included opening of kitchens at Mandar and Chhota Rohua, free distribution of grain and money, *taccavi* loans, opening of temporary shelters for flood victims in state buildings and exemption from duty charged on timber and other building material obtained from the forests. Extensive damage to *kharif* crops could have resulted in the scarcity conditions next year but a good *rabi* harvest saved the situation.

#### Lakes and Tanks

No natural lakes exist, but there are traces of old artificial ones at Garh (in the east) and at

other places. Generally speaking, the sub-soil appears unsuitable for artificial storage of water. Some other important tanks are:—

*Nakhi*—Of existing lakes and tanks the picturesque Nakhi Talab on Abu, holds pride of place; it is described in chapter XIX.

*Chandela*—Situated at the foot of Abu hills and eight miles (12 km.) west of Abu Road, it is an old reservoir enlarged and improved during the famine of 1899-1900 (the work was completed in 1903) and is capable of irrigating 675 acres (273 hectares) of land. Its catchment area is 2 square miles (5.18 sq. km.).

*Jubilee Tank*—In the north-east near Pindwara is a tank constructed to commemorate the diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It has a catchment area of 7 sq. miles (18 sq. km.) and a capacity to irrigate 572 acres (231 hectares) of land. But now due to the breaches that appeared long back, it does not hold much water. Though still used for small irrigation, its value for the purpose has now become rather limited due to seepage which is difficult and costly to repair.

*Sivera*—This tank is situated in village Sivera—six miles (9 km.) to the north-west of Pindwara near Keshavganj railway station. It was constructed in A. D. 1878 (S. 1935) by Maharao Sarup Singhji in memory of his deceased father. Its embankment is two miles (3 km.) long and 24 feet (7 m.) high. When full, it can irrigate 2,650 bighas of land. In years of good rains the overflow from this tank finds its way to Western Banas. The tank abounds in fishes.

There are following three tanks near the town of Sirohi:—

*Akhelao*—Also known as Kalkaji-ka-talab, it has a catchment area of five sq. miles (13 sq. km.) and can store 63,36,000 cubic feet of water sufficient to irrigate 307 bighas. It was constructed during the reign of Maharao Akhelao.

*Mansarovar*—It was constructed in the memory of Maharani Man Kunwar by Maharao Keshri Singhji, in the famine year of 1899 A. D. or *Samvat* 1956 *Vikrami*. Hence

its popular name Chhappan (fifty-six) Sagar. It has a catchment area of 5 sq. miles (13 sq. km.) and a capacity to store 4,10,400 cubic feet of water, sufficient for irrigating 200 bighas of land.

Both these tanks are situated in the north-east of Sirohi town and are fed by Booja-ka-Nala.

*Lakherao*—Situated in Sirohi town and used mostly for washing clothes etc., it has a catchment area of 3 sq. miles (8 sq. km.) and a storage capacity of 4,20,400 cubic feet. The bund was constructed during the reign of Maharao Lakherao and is 500 ft. (152 m.) long, 200 ft. (61 m.) broad and 10 ft. (3 m.) high. It is fed by Zap-ka-nala and Booja-ka-nala.

*Abbot Tank*—Located at Matrimata, a plateau on the Sarnava hills, it has a catchment area of one sq. mile (3 sq. km.) and capacity of storing 38,400 cubic feet of water. Due to the nature of terrain around it, irrigation is not possible.

*Dudhia*—Situated between Sarneshwarji and Sirohi, it has a catchment area of 1 sq. mile (3 sq. km.) and a storage capacity of 2,64,000 cubic feet of water.

*Visola*—Situated 5 miles (8 km.) north of Sirohi town on way to Kolar, it has a capacity of 59,400 cubic feet. During the dry season, the bed of this tank is cultivated.

#### **Springs and Spring Heads**

Considering the hilly nature of the surface on the summit of Abu, perennial springs of water are few and small. This is doubtless owing to generally impervious nature of the rock preventing deep percolation. But, for the same reason, water can be got in almost every valley, within 20 or 30 feet (6 to 9 m.) of the surface by sinking wells through clay. Many of the basins retaining these collections of water are small and shallow, the supply is soon exhausted and towards the end of the dry season the wells in them cease to yield much water. Those situated lowest in the valleys and nearest to the deepest part of the basin last longest and always give the most. The water in all these wells although uncertain of the quantity, is of good quality.

Elsewhere in the district, the sub-surface water is for the most part good, and is rarely brackish, but the depth

at which water stands in the wells, varies considerably. In the north-eastern portion of the district, adjoining Pali, water is found only at a considerable depth (90 to 100 ft. i.e., 27 to 30 m. and more) and is generally brackish. There are also but few wells here and irrigation is not practised much so that cultivators are totally dependent on rainfall. In the north-western parts, wells are less deep (70 to 90 feet i.e., 21 to 27 m.) between Abu and Aravalli range, along the course of Banas, and in south, the water is of good quality, and is much nearer the surface, (from 60 to 15 feet i.e., 18 to 4 m.). As we go towards south, wells, as a rule are of even less depth. In the western areas bordering Jalore wells are again, of considerable depth (60 to 70 feet or 18 to 21 m.). In Sirohi and the area around it, water is sometimes scarce in hot season when it deteriorates in quality also. The depth of wells varies from 60 to 100 feet, i.e., 18 to 30 m.

## GEOLOGY

### Geological Antiquity

The Aravalli system to which most of the schists and gneiss found in the district belong, seems to be remnant of a great mountain range which millions of years ago rivalled mighty Himalayas. It is probable that they were the centre of a great ice cap during *Carlioni Ferous* period and core of this old mountain range which now remains is made up of rocks of extreme antiquity. Recent investigations go to show that these rocks must have been deposited in sea long before life existed on earth. Geologically the rocks belong to the metamorphic series of Archaean rocks, and consist of gneiss, histita schists, quartzites and limestone with fragment bindings of marble and granite. The whole rock system has been greatly disturbed and is much fissured. These hills are generally composed of sedimentary rocks with occasional metamorphic rocks.

### Geological formation

The sands in the western and north-western parts of the district have been derived from the sand drifting action of south-west monsoon winds, which coming from the Rann of Cutch, sweep through the area for several months of the year. A certain proportion of the sand is derived from the weathered debris of the rocks, which are subject to considerable diurnal as well as seasonal alterations of temperature.

The general character of the geological formation of the Aravalli range within Sirohi is primitive granite, with a general dip to the east, on massive compact blue slate, the latter rarely appearing much above the surface. Variegated quartz and a variety of schistose slate of varied hue are found in abundance in the internal valleys, and rocks of gneiss and syenite appear at intervals. The hilly tract known as *Bhukar* is made of primitive and metamorphic rocks, schists and limestone. Abu is formed by a highly felspathic, massive and crystalline gneiss with a few schistose beds. It is principally solid granite, in many places well covered with soil and well wooded especially in valleys and water slopes. Mild tremors still occur frequently in this area and there may be some element of truth in the traditions preserved in *Mahabharat* that Mount Abu was cut off from the nearby ranges due to the action of a violent earthquake. The Nakhi lake also appears to be of volcanic origin.

The dykes and bases of granite found in this area are akin to Jalore type and are mica bearing. Mica is found in large quantities near Guom and Dildar.

The chief components of numerous hilly ranges of this district consist of granite, quartz, clinkstone, and a kind of rotten slate. Limestone is also found in various parts of the district, one of the principal quarries being at Kasibal near Sirohi.

Abu is mainly composed of greyish, large grained granite, which often contains distinct veins of quartz, trap, greenstone, gneiss and schist. Fragments of mica and a hard crystalline limestone are met within different parts of the mountain. Fine specimens of rock-crystal are also occasionally found. The compact blue slate stone is principally used for flooring and roofing, as it is strong and durable. The Abu granite is much used for building purposes.

There are two marble mines on the hill, one in lands of Achalgarh, named Vansavalla, the other at Utraj. Copper, silver, iron, sulphur, arsenic, antimony, and lead are found in small quantities in different parts of the district. Traces of gold were reported in some ferruginous bands of quartzose schist near Rohera railway station in 1897.

### Earthquakes and Tremors

Earthquakes are not uncommon on Abu. Indeed, no year passes without a vibration or two but fortunately shocks are as a rule, very slight, and there is no record of a really destructive one. Erskine refers to the reports given by people of rather severe earthquakes in 1825 and 1848, both of which caused damage to the houses and cracked some of the arches of the Delwara temples. Another earthquake occurred on 2nd December, 1866. There was a succession of rather alarming vibrations not only at Abu but generally throughout Sirohi on the 9th October, 1875; the noise was described as resembling that of a railway train at speed, and the motion was sufficient to make glasses jingle on the table and induce some of the inhabitants to spend the entire night out of doors. Severe shocks occurred on 15th December, 1882 and continued interruptedly for two months.

Two observations were recorded near Mount Abu of the Kangra Earthquake of 4th April, 1905. According to a meteorological observer's report some rumbling sounds from W.E. lasting a few seconds were heard.

According to another report from a Civil Surgeon, three shocks were distinctly felt with 40 to 50 seconds interval in S.W.-N.E. direction judging by the sound. These were followed by a severe shock after a few hours' interval.

The popular belief is that Abu rests on the horns of a great bull who, when displeased by sins of the people, shakes his head and causes earthquake. Importation of beef was believed to be followed by a shock; so the import of beef was forbidden on the hill by treaty.

### FLORA

A considerable portion of the district is covered with trees and bush jungle. The prevailing tree is smaller *dharu* (*Anogeissus pendula*), which is found on most of the low rocky hills scattered over the district, when thus situated, it attains to no size and is of little use except for firewood; but in more favourable places such as the lower slopes of Abu, it reaches a fair size, and its wood, being tough, is used for carts and agricultural implements. In the immediate neighbourhood of the villages such trees as the *nim* (*Azadirachta indica*), the *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*), the *bar* (*Ficus ben-*

*galensis*), the *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*), the *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*) and the *tamarisk* (*Tamarix dioica*) are common. The bush jungle, which covers three-fourths of the plains of the district, consists chiefly of a second species of *ber* (*Zizyphus nummularia*), the *anwala* (*Cassia auriculata*) and the *khair* (*Acacia catechu*), together with *khejra* (*Prosopis spicigera*), *babul* (*Acacia arabica*), *jhal* or *pilu* (*Salvadora persica* and *S. oleoides*), and *kair* or *karel* (*Capparis aphylla*) at places. The *thor* (*Euphorbia royleana*) is found generally throughout Sirohi, especially on the hills round the base of Abu; and in other parts where the soil is deep and good, there are numbers of the *dhak* tree (*Butea frondosa*), the bark from the roots of which, owing to its durability under water, is much used in making ropes for the water pots of Persian wheels.

On the slopes and round the base of Abu the forests contain a great variety of trees and shrubs. Among the most common are the bamboo (*Bambusa strictus*), the *am* or *mango* (*Mangifera indica*); two or three species of *dhao* (*Anogeissus latifolia* and *pendula*, etc.); the *bel* (*Aegle marmelos*); the *haldu* (*Adina cordifolia*); the *siris* (*Albizia lebbek*); the *jamun* (*Eugenia jambolana*), the *kachnar* (*Bauhinia racemosa*); the *timru* or *tebron* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*); the *semal* (*Bombax malabaricum*); the *dhaman* (*Grewia pilosa* and *Grewia tilioefolia*); the *rohira* (*Tecoma undulata*); the *phaludra* (*Erythrina arborescens*); the *aonla* (*Phyllanthus emblica*); and the horse-radish tree (*Moringa concanensis*).

### Flora of Mount Abu

The flora of Mount Abu is varied and includes several plants and shrubs which could not exist in the dry hot plains.

The slopes and base of the mountain are clothed with fairly dense forests of the various trees common to the plains and the neighbouring Aravalli range, interspersed with great stretches of bamboo jungle. Owing to its comparatively heavy rainfall, Abu is, as regards vegetation, by far the richest spot in Rajasthan. On the higher parts, humid types appear which are quite unknown below; most noteworthy of these is *Ambartari* (*Aerides affine*); which clings to mango and other trees and in the rains produces fine racemes of delicate pink or lilac flowers; three varieties of ground orchid are also found. The occurrence of white and pink wild roses, much used for hedges and a beautiful sight when in full bloom, and

of a stinging nettle (*Girardinia heterophylla*) at once reminds the visitor that he has left the arid region below while the *karanda* (*Carissa carandas*) is so abundant that during part of the hot season its white flowers scent the air for miles round the station with their delicious fragrance. Magnificent trees of *champa* (*Michelia champaca*) are not uncommon, especially near temples. The handsome and heavily scented yellow flowers are used for garlands, and the wood in the manufacture of guitars. The weeping willows, (*Salix babylonica*) adorn the margin of the Nakhi lake though both these species as well as several varieties of Jasmine are doubtfully indigenous. Lastly, there is the *Kara* (*Strobilanthes callosus*), a large shrub which blooms only once in six or seven years, but its blue and purple flowers, when they appear make a great show in September.

### Ferns

Numerous kinds of ferns also grow on these hills. However, on account of the long dry season which follows the rains and the winter frosts most of them die down annually, and only begin to sprout again with the arrival of the monsoon. Adams has mentioned the following as some of the best known ferns of Aravallis and Mount Abu:—

*Blechnum orientale*, *Davallia pulchra*, *Pteris quadriaurita*, *Asplenium trapeziforme*, *Phymatodes lepidotum*, *Adiantum caudatum*, *Actinopteris dichotoma*, *Cheilanthes farinosa*, *Cheilanthes tenuifolia*, *Cheilanthes aravallensis*, *Cyathea spinulosa*, *Athyrium fimbriatum*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, *Asplenium varians*, *Nephrodium molle* and a variety of *Polypodium quercifolium*.

### Flowers and Creepers

A large variety of wild flowers are abundant in the Abu hills, especially during the monsoon season, and many of the trees blossom luxuriantly. Violets, pansies, geraniums, dahlias, and sweet pea, asters, balsams, marigolds, and nasturtiums; mignonette, zinnias, dianthus, helianthus, periwinkles, flox and stock; heliotrope, lilies, irides, roses, fuschias, and hibiscus of varied hues bloom profusely in the Abu gardens. There is hardly a flowering plant or shrub, except the most delicate, that will not grow here with proper care and a little protection during the short periods of summer heat



and winter frosts. Most of the flowering creepers flourish on Mount Abu, the more common being—

*Passiflora coemba*, passion flower of three varieties, mauve, red and yellow; *Gelsemium*, yellow jasmine; *Bignonia Venusta*; *Hiptage madablota*, *Bugainvillea spectabilis*; *Banisteria laurifolia*; *Runborgia grandiflora*; *Antigonum leptopus*; Sandwich Island creeper, *Tecoma jasminoides*, *Ipomea purpurea*, common purple creeper; *Wistaria linensis*, found wild, and two varieties of honeysuckle; *Lonicera periclymenum*, English woodbine, and *Lonicera sempervirens*, American woodbine.

*Datura stramonium*, a well known Solanaceae, grows wild on Abu and the Aravallis, and is cultivated for its flowers as well as its seeds and leaves, which are used medicinally in asthmatic and other spasmodic affections. The seeds and leaves are also smoked with tobacco.

Caladiums and Crotons can be cultivated at Abu; but the long dry season is severe on them, and they require protection during the frost.

Poinsettia, bright acalypha, and other shrubs with brilliant foliage, grow well in Abu, and, with little skill and labour, a combination of the beauties both of the greenhouse and the garden can soon be obtained out of doors on this hill.

Garden flowers grow wild on Abu, and wild flowers spring up everywhere in the rains. The Abu orchid is very abundant and beautiful when it blossoms on the mango and other trees in the monsoon season. There is another orchid with a larger flower, or a pale blue and white colour, met with in the lower Aravalli, towards Kotra. Three varieties of orchis, or ground orchid, are found on Abu and also many varieties of flowering scrofula, boraginous and labiate plants, most of which bloom in the damp season. There are two varieties of wild dog-rose indigenous in this hill, and roses grow in great profusion making excellent hedges and magnificent clumps, which become covered with bloom in early spring, and again in autumn. There are two varieties of oleander and two of jasmine (both wild on the hill) which have escaped from gardens or been carried up by pilgrims like the mangoes, now wild. The geranium, dhak, dudeli, kerma, cassia, corral and cotton trees blossom with great profusion and the strobilanthes covers the hill with one blaze of bloom once in seven or eight years, after the monsoon. There are many other trees which add materially to the great natural beauty of Abu and the Aravallis by their beautiful flowers and foliage.

**Grasses**

The following grasses are found in the hills and other places of Sirohi:—

Baru (*Sorghum halepense*), is a grass which is met with all over the cultivated lands and plateaus. It is a strong, coarse grass, good for cattle and horses both as pasture and hay. The seed is made into bread during years of scarcity, and the coarser stems are used as pens.

Chhenki (*Paspalum kora*), is a common coarse grass, good for pasture when young; it is found in the low lands.

Dob (*Cynodon dactylon*), is a fine grass, found in well-watered lands; good for pasture and fodder, and keeps as hay for years.

Kusha or Dab (*Eragrostis cynosurides*), is found everywhere.

Khas (*Khas oderiferus*), is a sweet-scented grass found near tanks. Its roots are used for making *Khas tattis* and fans. Delicate scent is also made from it.

Karar (*Iseilema laxum*), is a heavy coarse grass, which grows on good soil. It is used as pasture, fodder, and thatch for huts.

Lamp or Monj (*Aristida hystrix*), is a hard grass, met with in many parts of the country. Cattle eat it when other grass is scarce, and it is used for making ropes, cots and matting.

Seran (*Ischoemum laxum*), called *moya* is found in the hills and plateaus; it is hard, but animals eat it, and like Lamp it is used for making rope.

Surwala (*Heteropogon contortus*), is found in both hills and plains. Though hard, horses and cattle eat it, both in the green and dry state.

Ratarda (*Themeda quadrivalvis*), is found in most of the areas of Sirohi and is a good edible grass.

Phularda or Phulia (*Aplanda mutica*), is also found in association with other grasses and is edible.

Roi or Rosha grass (*Cymbopogon martinii*), is also found where sufficient water is available nearby. It is used for making Palma Rosha oil.

Some of the varieties of trees and shrubs found in Abu have been described in Macadam's 'Complete list of trees and plants of Mount Abu, Marwar and Jaisalnure.' Short descriptions of more important ones of these are given below:—

Am (*Mangifera indica*), the mango tree, is met within the wild state on Mount Abu, where it is believed to have been introduced by pilgrims, who carried the fruit up and threw into trees. It is also cultivated in many villages in the plains below Abu. The Abu mango is small and has a strong flavour of turpentine, like the wild mango of Africa; it is principally used for making *chatni* preserve, or dried to form *amchoor*, an antiscorbutic of great repute, which is largely exported.

Analtas (*Cassia fistula*), is a tree of moderate size, with beautiful racemes of yellow flowers; which comes out in May and June, before its leaves. It looks like a laburnum in the distance; it is found in the lower ranges of Abu and the Aravallis. Its wood is not valuable, but the long pods are exported, and their pulp also much used as a medicine throughout the country.

Areta (*Sapindus trifoliatus*), a tree with a two-lobed saponaceous fruit which is used as soap by the villagers; this tree is met with in the Abu hills and the Aravalli Range.

Anwal or Awal (*Cassia auriculata*), a shrub with yellow pea-like flowers, common in parts of Sirohi where it covers large tracts and gives shelter to small game of all sorts. The bark is used for tanning and exported for the same purpose; it can also be used in the distillation of country liquor.

Aoula (*Phyllanthus emblica* or *Emblica officinalis*), a fair sized tree with feathery leaves and a yellow berry fruit, the pulp of which is made into jam after removing the seeds. The fruit is used medicinally, both in the fresh and dried state.

Arllua (*Adhatoda beddomei*), a shrub with white flowers, is met with in the lower spurs of Abu and the Aravallis. Its leaves are used as poultices and a decoction of them is taken internally in lung affections.

The Ambartari (*Aerides affine*), is a pretty little orchid which grows on the mango and jamun trees on Mount Abu. It comes out in the rains in great profusion; the flowers are offered at the temples, and the crushed tubes used as an application in skin diseases. A larger species of a somewhat similar orchid, is met with in the lower Sirohi hills; its flowers are bluish-white.

Amrud (*Psidium pyrifera* and *pomifera*), both the white and red guava are largely cultivated and their fruit is met with in many of the bazars, as it is highly prized by the people.

Anar (*Punica granatum*), the pomegranate tree, is cultivated for its fruit and flowers. The bark of this bush is used medicinally and *sharbat* is made from the fruit.

Angir (*Ficus palmata*), a wild edible fig, found on Mount Abu, and some other peaks of the Aravallis.

Arand (*Ricinus communis*), the castor-oil plant, is cultivated in some places in Sirohi, both for its shade and seeds, from which castor-oil is extracted for use in medicine and the arts.

Aru (*Prunus persica*), the peach tree, grows well on Mount Abu, and the fruit is of good quality when the tree is properly looked after and manured.

Babul (*Acacia arabica*), a tree with straight, white thorns, mostly in pairs, having round yellow flowers which eventually produce small beans, is met with in every village in the fertile country below Abu and the Aravallis. The *Babul* is one of the most useful village trees; the leaves, shoots, and pods provide fodder for the herds and flocks of the people in the hot weather when pasture becomes exhausted; the wood is used for domestic and agricultural purposes, and the bark for tanning and dying; the gum which exudes from the tree is exported and also used medicinally in various ways; and the leaves are pounded up into a poultice, and applied in the

treatment of ophthalmia, for which they are believed to be potent.

**Bahera** (*Terminalia bellerica*), a fine tree of the Aravallis and Mount Abu, its fruit is exported for dyeing and used medicinally.

**Bar** or **Banyan tree** (*Ficus bengalensis*) is common in the Sirohi district. The fruit of this tree attracts bears and green pigeons for the sportsman. It sometimes covers large areas and one tree will afford shade for a considerable camp.

**Baus** or **Bans** (*Dendrocalamus strictum*), Bamboo, is abundant in the Aravallis, Abu, and the other hills in Sirohi; it is much used for domestic purposes, and decoctions of its leave are used for coughs and lung affections.

**Bili**, **Bael** or **Bilgir tree** (*Aegle Marmelos*), is met with about Anadra, the base of Mount Abu, and some of the lower Aravallis, a few trees are found also on Abu. The leaves are offered at temples, and the fruit is in general use in the treatment of dysentery and bowel affections in which it is an excellent remedy, especially in the fresh state. The pulp of the fruit should be boiled and the gelatinous material strained and sweetened. It is not unpleasant as a jelly or *sharbat*, and it keeps well in the jelly form, retaining its curative properties.

**Bed** (*Salix babylonica*), this willow is cultivated on Mount Abu to a small extent, and one or two wild species are met with in some places near streams.

**Anjir** (*Ficus carica*), the fig-tree grows at Abu and in some other favoured places in the district and the Abu fruit is of good quality. Wild figs are plentiful and large, both in Abu and the Aravallis.

**Chambeli** or **Ja** (*Jasminum rettlerianum* and *J. grandiflorum*), both varieties of Jasmine grow wild in the ravines of Abu and some other adjacent hills. The flowers of these varieties are offered at the temples, and the leaves are believed to be potent remedies for herpes of the lips and ulcers of the mouth and tongue.

**Champa** (*Michelia champaca*), is a large tree with highly scented yellow flowers, wild, and often cultivated near

temples on Mount Abu and in many other places throughout the district; the flowers are much used for garlands, and the wood is considered the best for the manufacture of string musical instruments.

Chir (*Pinus longifolia* and *Deodara*), a few of these trees have been imported from Europe and Simla and planted near the Residency, Mount Abu, where they have grown, to a very large size at places, but are very rare.

Dhak or Palas tree (*Butea monosperma*), is abundant in the lower ravines and valleys of the Aravallis and Abu. Its beautiful bloom of red flowers lights up the country in March, and it looks well when its new leaves are out; but at other seasons, it is ugly and broken down in appearance. The seeds are given to animals as anthelmintic medicine, and the leaves are used for boils and swellings. The leaves are also used as plates (*Pattal* and *dona*) for curries and other foods.

Dhaman (*Grewia plicata* and *G. tilioefolia*), two varieties of this small tree are met within the hills. The leaves are much in use for feeding cattle during the hot weather when fodder and grass are scarce; milch cows do well on it. The fruit is eaten by the people, and the timber is valuable.

Dhau (*Anogeissus pendula*), is the most common tree of the lower Aravallis and lower ridges of Abu; it is also found in numbers on the top of the hills, but not so thickly studded together. Gum is collected from it which is used medicinally and also exported. The wood is largely used in agriculture and for domestic purposes. It has been tried for railway sleepers; but it is so hard and brittle that it quickly spoils the boring instruments, and it cracks too readily to last when perforated with the iron pins necessary to fix the rails.

Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), has been imported from Australia, and a few trees have been grown at Abu successfully. It requires watering, during the hot season, for some years. The leaves and the oil extracted from them are used medicinally for colds, coughs, and other complaints.

Ghor bel (*Pueraria tuberosa*), is a species of wild vetch, common on Mount Abu and some of the other high peaks of the Aravallis; it shoots out after the May showers and pro-

duces a pea-like blossom in July. The young shoots and leaves are excellent food for horses; the oldest and most lean quickly gain in condition on it, and it is so abundant in albumen that they can work, when fed on it, in a way they could not do on any other green food.

Gonda (*Gordia myxa*), is a middle-sized tree, with a berry-like fruit which is eaten, and used in cleaning sugar, after it has been dried; the leaves are used as a poultice in colic and other abdominal and chest affections.

Grapes, strawberries, and Cape gooseberries are grown on Mount Abu, and in a few other places. The mushrooms of Mount Abu are of excellent quality, and sometimes very abundant after the first showers of the monsoon have penetrated into the soil and moistened it. They disappear again after the heavy rains have well set in. The Abu mushroom is the small species, which is easily distinguished from the poisonous cryptogamic fungi by its smell, light salmon-pink colour underneath, and the readiness with which the rind peels off.

Gular (*Ficus glomerata*), a common species of wild fig, is met with throughout these hills; its fruit attracts bears for the sportsman, and it is supposed to be sycamore of the Bible.

Jal (*Hiptage madablota*), a twinning shrub with bright leaves, collected in great quantities after the first showers of May, for feeding milch cows, which do well on them.

Jamun (*Eugenia Jambelana* or *Syzygium cumini*), a common tree, with abundance of green foliage, met within Abu near the lake, and in the damp ravines of the Aravallis. Its fruit makes fair jam, and it is eaten by the people. The wood is used for domestic purposes, and the shade is excellent in the hot weather.

Grevellia (*Grevellia robusta* or the Silver Oak), has been imported from Australia, and cultivated at Abu, and in a few other places in the district. It is a handsome tree, and grows well in the hills, if watered for a couple of years during the dry months.

Kachnar (*Bauhinia racemosa*), the geranium tree, when in bloom, is one of the prettiest trees in Abu and it is also

found in some of the other hills. It blossoms in great luxuriance, in March and April; both the flowers and pods are boiled and eaten by the people.

**Kara** (*Strobilanthes callosus*), a shrub which covers Mount Abu with bloom once in seven or eight years, is found on some of the peaks of the Aravallis, but not in such profusion. This shrub has to accumulate much root-energy before it blooms; consequently, it does not flower every year. A few flowers are seen the year before the great bloom takes place, and a few shrubs are left to blossom the year after; but most of them die down in the dry season after the great bloom. The people of the hill consider this occasional luxuriance in flowers on Mount Abu, a special omen to indicate a season of prosperity, and as the shrub requires an abundant rainfall to bring it out, it is only seen in flower in years of plenty.

**Karunda** (*Carissa carandas*), is a common green Abu bush, which produces a superior edible fruit at the beginning of the monsoon season; jam and jelly are sometimes made from this fruit, but they are not of first quality. The people are, however, very fond of Karundas, and they are exported to the plains below, in great quantities, for village consumption.

**Khajur** (*Phoenix sylvestris*), the wild date-palm, is common on Abu, and met with in some other places in the neighbourhood. The fruit is eaten by the people, although it is mostly skin and stone; the leaves are used to make mats and brooms, and the timber for roofing houses. The Persian date-palm has not thriven well, on account of the dryness of the country. *Neera* is extracted from khajur.

**Kharaiyo** or **Kulu** (*Sterculia urens*), one of the finest trees in the Aravallis and Lower Abu, when its large palmate leaves come out after the rains. A gum is obtained from it.

**Kodala** (*Sterculia villosa*), a fine tree of Abu and the Aravallis, from the bark fibre of which ropes are made.

**Kowes** (*Mucuna pruriens*), Cowich or Cusso, a creeper, from the pods of which the medicinal Cusso is obtained; a powerful anthelmintic and irritant of the skin, which will cause death if taken in an overdose.



**Kuja** or **Jungli gulab** (*Rosa involucrata* and *R. moschata*), two varieties of white dog-rose are found on Abu and some of the other hills adjacent; the fruit is used medicinally, and the flowers are beautiful and well scented.

**Mal Kangni** (*Celastrus paniculatus* and *C. stylosa*), two varieties of this creeping shrub are met with in the hills. The young shoots and leaves are collected to feed cattle in Abu, when fodder is scarce; the seeds are taken as a tonic with sugar and ghee, and they are believed to make children thrive.

**Maha nimbu** (*Citrus decumana*), the pumalo tree, grows at Erinpura, in Sirohi district, and produces a well-flavoured fruit. Pumalo is believed to be tonic and anti-febric.

**Mohwa** (*Bassia latifolia*), a fine, handsome tree found in many parts of Sirohi, the flowers of which are eaten by the people. Bears are very fond of them. The flowers fall at night, so they may often be seen in the early morning picking them up. They also climb the trees to obtain them. The timber of this tree is valuable, as well as the flowers.

**Narangi** (*Citrus aurantium*), the orange tree, is cultivated in Sirohi both for flowers and fruit, and in some places, local oranges of excellent flavour are met with.

**Nimbu** (*Citrus acida*), the lime tree, is largely cultivated, and the fruit used as an antiscorbutic where vegetables are scarce.

**Phaludra** (*Erythrina lithosperma* and *E. arborescens*), the coral tree. It blossoms in great profusion in March before its leaves come out, when it is very pretty and striking. There are two varieties of this tree—one spiked, the other not.

**Pipal** (*Ficus religiosa*), is raised at Mahadeo's temples and at other holy places, and it is met with at every village in the fertile lands of Sirohi. It is worshipped generally by Hindu women throughout the district. Barren females are particular devotees of this tree, and when it fails to bring them offspring, they often try the worship of the *Bm*.

**Sagwan** (*Tectona grandis*), the teak tree, is cultivated to a very limited extent. It does not stand in the frosts

of Mount Abu, but at Chhipaveri it is giving good results as efforts are being made to protect it from frost.

Salaran or Salar (*Boswellia serrata*), is a large, handsome tree, with pinnate leaves; it produces a scented gum, and is valuable as timber.

Sebla (*Bombax malabaricum*), the cotton tree, is met with in Abu and the Aravallis; it is a tall, handsome tree, with large leaves, which come out after the flowers in March. An infusion of the bark is used as a tonic.

Saitut (*Morus nigra*), the mulberry tree, is cultivated on Mount Abu, and produces abundant fruit. It also thrives in gardens in other parts of the district.

Sirgura (*Moringa concanensis*), the horse-radish, found in Abu and the Aravallis: leaves doubly pinnate, flowers yellow, blossoms late in the season.

Siris (*Albizzia lebbek*), is a common tree throughout the hills and fertile lands of Sirohi. The outer wood is soft and of little value, while the inner wood is hard and black, and used for ornamental carving. An infusion of the bark is given to camels suffering from *Sirra* and other diseases. There are other varieties of Siris, wild and cultivated.

Sitaphal (*Anona squamosa*), the custard apple tree, is cultivated in some gardens, and the fruit is sometimes of good quality.

Tebzon (*Diospyros tomentosum*), a fairly common tree of the hills which produces ebony.

### FAUNA

The fauna is rather varied, though not very plentiful. In olden days lions were sometimes met with in the south, but they have not been heard of since 1872, when a full-grown female was shot on the Anadra side of Abu by a Bhil shikari. Tigers and black bears are still found on the Abu-Sirohi range and in the Nibaj hills in the south-west; *sambar* (*Cervus unicolor*) used to be plentiful in some localities, but many of these animals died or were killed by the Bhils during the famine of 1899-1900, and they are now only fairly numerous. Panthers are of course, common and, as in all hill stations, often very bold on Abu,

while *chital* (*Cervus axis*) confine themselves to the grass-lands and lower slopes of the Aravallis in the south-east. Wild pigs are found in most of the hills, but the *nilgai* (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) is seldom seen, and black buck are comparatively rare as they prefer rather more open country; ravine deer (*chikara*) are fairly common, and the four-horned antelope less so. Wolves are unknown.

As regards small game, grey partridge, hares, several varieties of quail, and two kinds of sand-grouse (the common and the painted) abound, but the latter are not so numerous as in Jodhpur, Bikaner and the north of Jaipur. Black and painted partridge are occasionally met with in the south, but there is very little ground suitable for such cold weather visitants as duck, geese, snipe and teal. Floricans inhabit some of the large grass-preserves (particularly in the east) for a short time during the rains, while jungle-fowl and red spur-fowl are always plentiful on Abu and some other high hills. Besides these, there are, numerous birds.

### Game Sanctuary

A game sanctuary was established in Mount Abu in 1960-61. Shooting has been prohibited in a ten-mile belt around the sanctuary which has the following defined boundaries:—

North—Guru Shikhar—boundary of Sirohi Range Utraj village.

East—Boundary of Pindwara Range up to Arna-Abu Road to Abu Road up to mile 13. .

South—Danwan village boundary (from the foot of hills), south of Rishikesh temple, Umarain village boundary, Talwara naka, north of Abu Road—Reodar road up to mile 7.

West—Telpur village boundary. Dak-ki-Paj footpath near Karodidhwaj temple—Anadra Taleti to Shanti Shikar hill.

Fencing has been completed in one mile. A watch-tower has been established at Trevor Tal besides two water-troughs nearby and two platforms for bird feeding. Game-

watchers (8) patrol the 44 square mile (114 sq. km.) sanctuary to prevent violation of law. The approximate population of game in the demarcated area is as follows:

Type	Population
Tiger	5
Panther-Leopard	80
Bears	75
Sambhar	200
Rabbits	500
Gray Fowl	4,000
Red Fowl	1,200

### Forests

Forests play an important part in the life of the people of this district. The area demarcated as forest land totalled 62,696 acres or 25,372 hectares in 1960-61. It is not possible to give accurate figures as all the forests of the district have not yet been properly demarcated and forest settlement is still to be completed. The tahsilwise forest area in 1960-61 was as follows:

Tahsil	Acres	Hectares
Sirohi	18,630	7,539
Pindwara	29,196	11,815
Reodar	9,309	3,767
Abu Road	618	350
Sheoganj	4,943	2,000

Some of the important forest blocks of this district are Pahar Kalan, Aruna, Rameshwar, Abu and Lotana in tahsil Pindwara and 'Abu Reserve Forest' in tahsil Abu Road.

In past, the system of *ular* cultivation (shifting cultivation) practised by Bhils and other tribes did much damage to the forests. At times forests were set on fire simply to open out an area for grazing or even to facilitate hunting of deer. Upto later half of the last century most of the forests had been ruined. First step towards conservation was taken in 1878 by prohibiting indiscriminate felling of trees. A small staff was also employed to ensure compliance of these orders. However, it was not until 1893 that a qualified ranger was employed.

The forests of this district are of two kinds, namely; those of the plains and those of the hills. The former are found in the Bhakar, Khuni, Pindwara, Rohera and Santpur areas and are sub-divided into the following categories:—

(a) Reserved (b) Protected, and (c) Open or unclassed. The total area of the reserved and protected forests is 1,26,691.22 acres (51,270 hectares). The forest proper, i.e., those of the hills, may be said to be found on the slopes of Abu and the belt round its base and receive the special attention of the forest officials. The protected area is approximately 9 sq. miles (23 sq. km.), and is divided into 5 blocks one of which is closed and reserved for experimental purposes while the remaining four are opened to the public on certain terms and conditions. The principal trees growing in this forest have been mentioned earlier. Minor produce consists of grass, honey, gum, wax, *mahua* flower (from which country liquor is distilled), leaves of two or three kinds used for dinner plates or rolling-up *bidi* and several varieties of fruits, nuts and roots.

The tahsilwise forest area demarcated as reserved or protected till December, 1962 is as follows.—

Name of the block	Tahsil	Area in	
		Acres	Hectares
1	2	3	4
PROTECTED FOREST			
Matar Mata	Sheoganj, Pindwara & Sirohi	28,005.46	11,334
Pahar Kalan	Pindwara	17,307.20	7,003

1	2		4
Arnoa	Pindwara	25,791.62	10,437
Abu No. 2	„	18,710.06	7,572
Barja No. 1 & 2	„	1,768.52	715
Naya Nandiya	„	936.68	379
Purana Nandiya	„	499.64	202
Rameshwar	„	10,031.00	4,059
Jangal Nandiya	„	1,615.26	654
RESERVED FOREST			
Dharla Virohi	Pindwara	2,462.70	997
Bilwa	„	2,055.98	832
Pindwara	„	1,184.10	477
Rohira	„	2,002.16	810
Dhavla	„	82.12	33
Billar	„	412.48	166
Sadalawa	„	204.00	82
Phoola-Bai-ka Kheda	„	200.80	81
Jannapur	„	255.98	103
Rampura	„	774.62	313
Panpura	„	177.60	71
Sivera	„	155.36	63
Nitora	„	397.60	161

1	2	3	4
Badgawn	Sheoganj	895.52	362
Revara	"	339.34	137
Sikhon-ka-Jod	"	1,034.00	418
Posaliya	"	260.92	106
Kukri Khera	"	34.14	13
Palri	"	724.56	293
Ora	"	736.24	298
Nawara	Sirohi	43.42	17
Barakhera	"	10,703.64	4,331
Mahelagor	"	1,175.84	476
Balda	"	2,179.44	882
Rajal	Reodar	1,107.84	448
Nala	"	647.12	261

The forests of the district are under the management of the Divisional Forest Officer headquartered at Sirohi. Rangers are posted at Sirohi, Pindwara and Abu Road, Sirohi and Mount Abu. The establishment of the department is given in detail in chapter on General Administration.

#### Revenues

During the 10 years ending 1900, the annual revenue and expenditure averaged about Rs. 9,100 and Rs. 3,400 respectively or a surplus of Rs. 5,700. During the succeeding five years the surplus ranged between Rs. 1,086 in 1903-04 and Rs. 8,033 in 1904-05. The actual figures for the year ending 31st October, 1907 as published in the Administration reports were, receipt Rs. 34,619 viz., timber duty Rs. 17,806, jungle products Rs. 15,715, charcoal revenue including municipal fee Rs. 604, and miscellaneous Rs. 494; and

expenditure Rs. 6,618, inclusive of compensation of *Jagirdars*, rewards and contingencies; the surplus being Rs. 28,001. Income and expenditure figures for some later years, are given below:—

Year	Income	(Rupees)		
		Expenditure		
1911-12	20,509	7,753		
1921-22	40,096	12,103		
1931-32	59,024	15,002		
1941-42	58,033	17,764		
		Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1952-53	1,67,250	..	72,581	72,581
1953-54	1,82,972	5,000	80,389	85,389
1954-55	1,87,264	5,514	81,786	87,300
1955-56	2,16,003	71,231	91,639	1,62,870
1956-57	2,96,499	54,366	1,27,359	1,81,725
1957-58	5,04,598	97,256	1,45,099	2,42,355
1958-59	4,54,563	1,34,941	1,55,597	2,90,538
1959-60	5,11,873	1,79,956	1,59,100	3,39,056
1960-61	3,91,543	1,54,439	1,65,887	3,20,326

Recently a scheme for expanding the area under forest has been introduced and 600 acres (243 hectares) in Vada-kheda, 475 acres (192 hectares) in Palri and 300 acres (121 hectares) in Janapur (Pindwara) have been covered and declared reserved. For the most part, the soil in this district is poor and rocky and the moisture content is rather low. As a result, the leaf canopy of the trees in the forest is very



open and poor. Nurseries have been established to provide plants for afforestation and soil conservation. There are at present seven nurseries in the district, one each at Mount Abu (3 acres or 1 hect.), Abu Road (5 acres or 2 hect.), Sirohi (6 acres or 2.4 hect.), Palri (4 acres or 1.6 hect.), Pindwara (6 acres or 2.4 hect.), Anadra (7-1/2 acres or 3 hect.), Banas (5 acres or 2 hect.). The total expenditure on nurseries during the first Five Year Plan was Rs. 43,726 and Rs. 2,34,220 in the second Plan. Plantations have been done at various places in the district for the purpose of creation of village forests, rehabilitation of existing forests and soil conservation.

Demarcation of the forests was started only after the formation of Rajasthan and a regular working plan was introduced. The *jagir* forests were resumed and a beginning was made to work the forests on scientific basis. The Forest Act of 1953 has been made applicable to this district also. The forests are divided into five ranges, each under the charge of a range officer headquartered at Sirohi, Abu Road, Sirodi, Mount Abu and Pindwara. The ranges are further divided into 21 forest circles, 5 head guards charges and 99 forest beats. There are also two Deputy Rangers, one each for Mount Abu and Sirohi Ranges. Attempts are being made to dissuade the local tribes from practising shift cultivation (*wabar*) and an attempt has been made to provide them a subsidiary occupation in the form of collecting Ayurvedic drug-plants.

Just after the formation of Rajasthan to stop indiscriminate felling of green trees a legislation known as 'The Rajasthan Removal of Trees (Regulation) Ordinance' was enacted in the State according to which trees could not be removed without a licence obtained from the Revenue Authorities. After resumption of *Jagirs*, all the private forests have also been transferred to the Forest Department.

There is no forest depot in the district.

During the period of transition trees were cut indiscriminately and bamboos were removed without any restriction. By the end of 1957-58 cultural operations were started to improve the variety and the yield of bamboos. By the end of the second Five Year Plan these portions had covered 1,500 acres (607 hect.). By the end of 1960-61 1,800 acres

(728 hect.) of land was covered under the rotational grazing system, in Lodra hills, 600 acres (243 hect.), Dabla Rajul hills, 400 acres (162 hect.), Matarmata 600 acres (243 hect.) and Khambal hills 200 acres (81 hect.). Soil conservation plans, under the scheme started in 1958, cover 300 acres (121 hect.) in Abu Road and 100 acres (40 hect.) in Vera.

### CLIMATE

The district has on the whole, a dry climate with the hot season somewhat milder than in the adjoining districts to the north and north-west. The cold season is from December to February. This is followed by the hot season which lasts till about the middle of June. The period from mid-June to mid-September is the south-west monsoon season; mid-September to the end of November constitutes the post-monsoon season.

#### Rainfall

Records of rainfall are available for four stations for periods ranging from 38 to 70 years. Tables 1 and 2 give the details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole. The rainfall at Mount Abu which is a hill station is much higher than at stations in the plains. The average annual rainfall in the plains of the district is 638.4 mm. (25.13"). The rainfall generally decreases from the south-east to the north-west in the district. Abu Road near the south-eastern border of the district has an annual rainfall of 847.4 mm. (33.36") while Sheoganj in the northern border gets only 497.7 mm. (19.44"). The average annual rainfall at Mount Abu is 1639.1 mm. (64.53"). The rainfall during the period June to September constitutes 94% of the annual rainfall. July and August are the rainiest months when 73% of the annual rainfall is received. The variations in the annual rainfall from year to year, are large. During the fifty year period viz., 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall which amounted to 208% of the normal, was recorded in 1944, while the lowest which was only 22% of the normal occurred in 1901. In the same fifty year period, the rainfall, was less than 80% of the normal in 20 years. Considering the district as a whole, rainfall less than 80% of the normal, occurred in two spells of five consecutive years each in 1901-1905 and 1911-1915. At individual stations two or more successive years of rainfall less than 80% of the normal, occurred on two to five occasions. It will be seen from

table 2 that the annual rainfall was between 400 and 900 mm. (15.75" and 35.43") in 33 years out of forty-nine.

On an average the number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm.—10 cents or more), in the plains of the district, is 29 in a year out of which 26 are in the period June to September. At Mount Abu the number of rainy days in a year is 53.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at stations in the plains of the district was 362.7 mm. (14.28") at Sirohi on August 14, 1941. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours at Mount Abu, also on the same date, was 484.9 mm. (19.09").

### Temperature

The only meteorological observatory in the district is at Mount Abu. Being a hill station the data of temperature and other meteorological elements at this station will not be representative of the conditions in the district as a whole. However, meteorological data are available for Erinpura Road, a station just outside the northern border of the district. The conditions at this station may be taken to be fairly representative of those in the plains of the district. The following account is, therefore, based on the meteorological records of Erinpura Road.

From about November both day and night temperatures drop fairly rapidly till January which is generally the coldest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in this month in the plains is of the order of 25°C (77°F) and the mean daily minimum about 10°C (50°F). At Mount Abu the mean daily maximum temperature in January is 18.8°C (65.9°F) and while the minimum is 10.2°C (50.3°F). In the wake of western disturbances which move across north India in the winter months, cold waves affect the district and the temperatures may go down to a degree or so below the freezing point of water and frost may occur. Both day and night temperatures rise rather rapidly after February till May which is usually the hottest month of the year. The mean daily maximum temperature in May is 31.2°C (88.2°F) at Mount Abu and is of the order of 40°C (104°F) in the plains. With the onset of the south-west monsoon in the second half of June the temperature drops appreciably and the weather becomes more pleasant. With the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon by mid-September the day temperature increases slightly and there is a secondary maximum of

temperature in October. At Mount Abu the highest maximum temperature recorded was 38.3°C (101.0°F) on May 7, 1881, and June 9, 1897. The lowest minimum temperature recorded was -1.1°C (30.0°F) on January 31, 1929. At Erinpura Road observatory which is just outside the northern border of the district, the highest maximum temperature was 45.6°C (114.1°F) on April 26, 1958. The lowest minimum was 3.4°C (38.1°F) on February 10, 1957.

### **Humidity**

Humidities are generally high in the brief south-west monsoon season. During the rest of the year the air is dry. The summer months form the driest part of the year when humidities are low particularly in the afternoons.

### **Cloudiness**

During the south-west monsoon season skies are generally heavily clouded to overcast. During the rest of the year skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded. In the winter season which is generally marked by clear bright weather, brief spells of cloudy weather occur in association with the passage of western disturbances across north India.

### **Winds**

Winds are generally light with some strengthening in the south-west monsoon season. In the period from May to September winds are predominately from directions between south and west. In the post monsoon and winter seasons winds from directions between north-east and north-west become more common. By the beginning of the summer season south-westerly or westerly winds begin and these predominate with the advance of the season.

### **Special weather phenomena**

A few of the monsoon depressions particularly in July and August which form at the head of the Bay of Bengal and move across the country in a westerly or west-north-westerly direction reach the district and its neighbourhood towards the later stages and cause gusty winds and widespread rainfall. Occasional duststorms and thunderstorms occur in the summer months, while rainfall in the monsoon months is also often associated with thunder.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 respectively give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and frequency of special weather phenomena for Mount Abu.

TABLE 1  
Normals and extremes of Rainfall

No. of Station years of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual rainfall as % of as % of normal & year ++	Lowest annual rainfall as % of as % of normal & year ++	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.*			
															Amount (mm.)	Date	16	17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sirohi	50 a	3.3	5.8	1.8	2.8	13.5	48.0	189.5	211.8	82.5	11.4	2.3	1.5	574.2	243	24	363.7	1941 Aug., 14
	b	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.6	8.0	8.5	3.9	0.7	0.2	0.2	26.7	(1944)	(1901)		
Sheo- ganj	40 a	4.3	6.6	2.3	2.0	12.7	41.9	157.2	180.6	72.1	9.7	3.3	1.0	493.7	233	32	247.9	1941 Aug., 14
	b	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.9	2.7	7.8	7.1	3.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	23.9	(1917)	(1918)		
Abu Road	28 a	5.1	3.3	1.0	2.8	9.7	83.1	367.5	286.5	74.4	6.6	3.3	4.1	847.4	204	42	280.4	1937 July, 16
	b	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	3.5	13.9	11.9	3.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	36.2	(1944)	(1936)		
Sirohi (Distt.)	a	4.2	5.2	1.7	2.5	12.0	57.7	238.1	226.3	76.3	9.2	3.0	2.2	638.4	208	22		
	b	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.8	2.9	9.9	9.2	3.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	28.9	(1944)	(1901)		
Mount Abu	50 a	5.3	7.4	4.3	2.8	20.3	100.1	597.4	660.4	213.4	20.6	4.3	2.8	1039.1	244	26	484.9	1941 Aug., 14
	b	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	1.1	5.0	18.0	17.6	7.4	1.1	0.4	0.2	52.9	(1944)	(1911)		

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

\*Based on all available data upto 1955.

++ Years given in brackets.

TABLE 2

Frequency of Annual rainfall in the district\*

( Data 1901-1950 )

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
101-200	3	801- 900	6
201-300	4	901-1000	1
301-400	3	1001-1100	3
401-500	10	1101-1200	0
501-600	8	1201-1300	1
601-700	6	1301-1400	1
701-800	3	....	....

\*Data available for 49 years only

TABLE 3  
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity  
(Mount Abu)

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature °C	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature °C	Highest Maximum ever recorded °C	Date	Lowest Minimum ever recorded °C	Date	Relative Humidity	
							0830 %	1730+ %
January ..	18.8	10.2	26.1	1932 Jan. 27	-1.1	1929 Jan. 31	45	42
February ..	20.2	11.6	28.9	1943 Feb. 28	0.0	1950 Feb. 11	43	37
March ..	24.9	16.1	33.3	1892 March 27	3.9	1945 March 5	35	29
April ..	29.1	20.2	36.9	1958 April 27	10.0	1926 April 20	29	28
May ..	31.2	21.8	38.3	1881 May 7	11.1	1892 May 2	36	33
June ..	28.8	20.3	38.3	1897 June 9	13.9	1940 June 3	72	56
July ..	24.1	19.0	32.8	1939 July 5	16.1	1910 July 8	92	86
August ..	22.2	18.0	31.1	1883 Aug. 28	15.0	1913 Aug. 28	93	82
September ..	24.0	18.2	31.1	1929 Sept. 27	15.0	1909 Sept. 11	81	76
October ..	26.3	17.9	31.7	1941 Oct. 3	10.6	1947 Oct. 27	48	40
November ..	23.3	14.2	28.9	1929 Nov. 13	6.1	1938 Nov. 30	44	33
December ..	20.4	11.2	27.8	1941 Dec. 7	-0.6	1929 Dec. 22	44	38
Annual ..	24.4	16.6	..	..	..	..	55	48

+ Hours I. S. T.

TABLE 4

## Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.

(Mount Abu)

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
5.5	6.9	8.1	9.5	11.6	12.7	12.9	12.4	8.5	5.3	4.5	4.5	8.5

TABLE 5

## Special Weather Phenomena

(Mount Abu)

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	
Thunder	..	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.9	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	6.9
Hail ..	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Duststorm	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Squall	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog ..	..	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	4.0	18.0	18.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.3



## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY

#### ANCIENT PERIOD

As mentioned in Chapter I, the Puranic name for Abu was Arbuda-giri and the contiguous area was known as Arbuda-Desha. References in *Skanda Purana* hint at the proximity of sea in this area. Thus Shrimad Mahatmya of the *Skanda Purana* records: "At first the plain of Shrimad was sea and the sage Bhrigu called on Surya and the sun dried the water and made it land. A lake was formed in the centre to the north of the mountain Saugandhika and to the north-west of the mountain Arbuda".<sup>1</sup>

The Arbuda Mahatmya describes the legendary origin of Arbuda thus:

"Rishi Gautama had a scholar named Uttanka. He was a very devoted pupil and served his *guru* so diligently that he was not discharged till long after his education had been completed. Nor did Uttanka know that he had grown grey in his preceptor's service till one day he brought a large bundle of firewood on his head and when he threw it down he noticed a grey hair adhering to one of the faggots. He thought of having the second stage of his life, i. e., marriage and children. He approached Gautama and wanted him to name a present of his own choosing before giving Uttanka his discharge. Gautama sent him to his wife Ahalya and she requested Uttanka to get for her the ear-rings of Saudasa's wife Madayanti. Uttanka went to the place, where, labouring under a curse of Vashishtha, lived Saudasa, turned into a man-eating *Rakshasa*. Saudasa wanted to eat him but Uttanka explained to him the object of his errand and promised to come back. Saudasa directed him to go to his wife with orders to her to give her ear-rings to Uttanka. Madayanti gave the ear-rings as ordered, but told him to keep

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1. Chapter 2, Shlokas 22-23.

them carefully as a certain Naga was also desirous of possessing them. Uttanka started towards the abode of Ahalya but felt hungry on the road and seeing some ripe *bael* (*Aegle Marmelos*) fruits hanging from a branch, could not resist the temptation to gather some and leaving the ear-rings on the ground wrapped up in his deer-skin, climbed up the tree. The Naga who seems to have been carefully watching his movements, picked up the rings and entered his hole. The disappointed pupil took up a piece of dry wood and began to dig into the hole. Indra saw his distress and with one stroke of his bolt made a huge chasm into which Uttanka entered and recovered the precious ear-rings from the offending Naga. This chasm was two thousand *Yojanas* in length and three in breadth. One day the cow Nandini which used to supply Vashishtha with everything he asked for, happened to fall into the chasm. In his distress the sage called on the sacred river Saraswati to help him and Nandini was saved by a miraculous rise of the waters which floated her up on to dry land. Fearing that such an accident might occur again, Vashishtha appealed to Siva, who referred him to Himachal the lord of the Himalayas. The latter called his sons together and enquired which of them would volunteer to fill up fissure. The youngest son, Nandivardhan offered his services but being lame and unable to travel said to Vashishtha, "I have a good friend, a mighty snake Arbuda, if you petition him he will carry me". The sage did as he was bid and Arbuda consented to convey Nandivardhan on condition that the hill, which would stand above the abyss, was called after him. This having been agreed to, the serpent placed Nandivardhan on his hood and set out on his journey. On reaching their destination, they plunged into the chasm but it was so deep that only the gods' nose could be seen while the snake's writhings made the earth rock". It is said that there is an important omission in this extract. Nandivardhan at first refused to go as the place was a desert without fruits or flowers and inhabited by cruel *Dasys* and *Mlechhas* and consented only when an assurance was given to him by Vashishtha that he would make the land replete with fruit-bearing trees and sanctify it by building a hermitage and establishing *tirthas* and temples.

Arbuda of the *hig Veda* was a mighty demon trodden under foot by Indra and cast down headlong.

Another legend attached to the region is about the origin of four Rajput clans from the fire pit at Abu. "The Kshattriyas, or fighting and kingly caste, had become so arrogant and tyrannous in their behaviour that Parasu Ram resolved to punish them, and the *Mahabharata* tells us how "thrice seven times he cleared the earth of the Kshattriya caste, and filled with their blood the five mighty lakes of Samanta-Pachaka," giving the land to the Brahmins. The result, however, was not what had been hoped for, as both gods and men, particularly the Brahmin, soon began to feel the loss of their natural protectors; the earth was overrun by giants and demons (*Daityas* and *Asuras*), the sacred books were held in contempt, and there was none to whom the devout could appeal for help in their troubles. In this predicament, Viswamitra, a Kshattriya who had raised himself to be a Brahmin by the might of penance, determined to revive the race that had been exterminated and moved the gods to assemble for this purpose on Mount Abu. The request was complied with, and Siva arrived at the fire-pit (*Agni-kund*), bringing with him Brahma, Vishnu, Indra, and all the minor deities. After some discussion as to who should start the work of creation, the Paramara or Panwar was brought into existence by Indra, the Chalukya or Solanki by Brahma, the Parihar by Siva, and finally the Chauhan by Vishnu. The last of these was four-armed like the god himself-whence his name Chauhan and carried a weapon in each hand; he has been described as "lofty in stature, of elevated front, fierce, terrific, clad in armour, with hair like jet, eyes rolling, and breast expanded". The new-born warriors issued out against the demons but strove for a time in vain, eventually, however, the leaders of the *Daityas* were slain, and "the rest fled, not halting till they reached the depths of hell". According to another version, the three that were first created, all failed to subdue the demons, and it was left to the Chauhan (single-handed) to kill and disperse them. Be this as it may, "the success was hailed with supreme delight in heaven; the gods rained down ambrosia upon the victors, and the Brahmins were made happy".<sup>1</sup> This place (*arbuda*) is again mentioned in *Matsya Purana* (CXIV), *Vayu Purana* (XIV), *Brahma Purana* (I & II) and *Vishnu Purana* (IV). In *Mahabharata* (*Vana Parva* LXXXII), Dhaumya tells Yudhisthira about the sacred spots as thus: "...one must then go to Arbuda,

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1. Rajputana Gazetteer by K. D. Erskine, p. 236.

the son of Himavat where there was a hole through the earth in days of old. There is the asylum of Vashishtha .....".

*Mahabharata* period was succeeded by that of *sixteen mahajanpadas* of the early Bhudhist records and the region probably formed a part of Avanti Kingdom.

#### Alexander and the Mauryas

The dominions of Chandra Gupta Maurya comprised the area from Himalayas to Vindhya and bay of Bengal to Arabian sea including the whole of Rajputana. Bindusara, the son and successor of Chandragupta maintained intact the vast empire which he had inherited from his father.<sup>1</sup> Ashoka's empire extended even wider, covering Afghanistan and Baluchistan. Perhaps Sirohi region was under the Governor of Western provinces comprising Malwa, Gujarat and Kathiawar and headquartered at Ujjain. The discovery of Bhabru edict at Bairath further corroborates the extent of his rule in this region. V. A. Smith even suggests that 'Ashoka may have been residing at one of the Bairat monasteries when he caused this unique document to be prepared.' Saurashtra which was a province of Chandragupta's empire and probably included Sirohi region, was governed by his provincial Governor Pushya Gupta. After Ashoka's death, it appears that the kingdom was divided among his grandsons Dasarath and Samprati, the former taking the eastern and the latter the western provinces. Samprati, who perhaps retained his capital at Ujjain for sometime and then shifted to Patliputra, is said to be a zealous patron of Jainism. Inscription in the Jain temple at Nadlai (in former Jodhpur State), and a Jain manuscript found in a temple at Nadol further supports his influence in this region. "Almost all ancient Jain temples or monuments of unknown origin are ascribed by the popular voice to Samprati, who is, in fact, regarded as a Jain Ashoka".<sup>2</sup>

"Jain texts treat Samprati as a patron of Jainism almost in the same light as Budhist texts treat Asoka. According to Jinaprabhasuri, he ruled at Pataliputra as 'lord of Bharata with its three continents, and was the great *Arhanta* to establish *Viharas* for *Sramanas* even in non-

1. The History & Culture of Indian People Vol. II-The Age of Imperial Unity, p. 70.
2. Early History of India by V. A. Smith, p. 202.

Aryan countries." The dominions of Samprati probably also included Avanti and Western India.<sup>1</sup>

Pushyamitra, the able and ambitious officer of Brihadratha, the last prince of the Maurya dynasty, successfully overthrew his master and established the Sunga dynasty. While he was yet struggling to retain the usurped territory, the onslaughts of Kharewala (about 165 B. C.), king of Kalinga, befell him. Another serious challenge to his power was made by Menander<sup>2</sup> the Bactrian, in the latter years of his reign. His exploits suggest that the Sirohi region must have been among the territories annexed by him.

After the invasion of Alexander, the Sibis (a tribe) probably the *Sivas* of the *Rigveda*, of whose homeland was Panjab, migrated towards Rajputana and probably passing through this region, settled around Madhyamika, modern Nagari near Chittor. Dr. Sudhakar Chattopadhyaya records: "The Sibis are evidently identical with the Siboi of the Greek writers who locate the country between the Indus and the Chenab. Their coins belonging to the 2nd century B. C., bear the legend Majhamikaya-Sibi Janapadasa showing that they occupied Madhyamika near Chittor, where evidently they had migrated sometimes after the invasion of Alexander"<sup>3</sup>. The script of the coins struck by them at Majhamikaya do not put them earlier than the latter half of the first century B. C. This tribe had a republican constitution. Another tribe which migrated from Panjab to Rajputana and settled near Jaipur was Malvas. Malvas came in clash with their neighbour, the Uttamabhadras, about the beginning of the second century A. D.<sup>4</sup>, though

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1. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. II-The Age of Imperial Unity, p. 89-90.
  2. "Some historians are prone to hold that it was Demetrius who first invaded Pushyamitra's territory and Menander was only a later invader. However, V.A. Smith in his Early History of India mentions "He (Menander) annexed the Indus Delta, the peninsula of Surashtra (Kathiawar) and some other territories on the Western coast; occupied Mathura on the Jumna; besieged Madhyamika (now Nagari near Chitor) in Rajputana, invaded Saketam in Southern Oudh; and threatened Patliputra, the Capital."
  3. Early History of North India by Sudhakar Chattopadhyaya, p. 41.
  4. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. II-The Age of Imperial Unity, p.164.

Dr. Sudhakar Chattopadhyaya disagrees with this date. Ushavadata, the son-in-law of Nahapana (the Kshaharata chief) whose rule extended as far north as Ajmer and Rajputana' and included Kathiawad, south Gujrat, Western Malwa etc., spoused the cause of Uttambhadras and went to their succour. This suggests that Nahapana might have been an overlord of the Uttambhadras. His coins and most of the inscriptions show that he enjoyed the title of Raja, Kshatrapa and also Mahakshatrapa. The inscriptions of his son-in-law and general, Ushavadata, record the latter's benefactions in places which were presumably included in Nahapana's realm. "Not only did Southern Gujrat, Northern Konkan from Broach to Sopara and the Nasik and Poona districts form parts of his dominion; but it must have stretched much further north. Surashtra (Kathiawar), Kukura (a region in the south of Rajputana), Akara (East Malwa) and Avanti (Western Malwa) and even Pushkara in Ajmer in Central Rajputana were also incorporated in his kingdom."<sup>2</sup> Afterwards, Gautamiputra Satakarni wrested from him many of these territories. It is not necessary that Gautamiputra fought with Nahapana personally. Chashtana's grandson Rudradaman annexed from Pulumayi II most of the territories which Pulumayi's father had wrested from the Kshaharatas some years earlier. The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman records the place names, which of course, present some difficulties in identification. From this inscription, it may be culled that his rule "extended over (1 and 2) Eastern and Western Malwa, (3) a district on the upper Narmada south of Malwa and on the other side of the Vindhya range, probably the region round ancient Mahismati, modern Mandhata, (4 and 5) the country around the Gulf of Cambay and Kathiawar, (6) Northern Gujrat, (7) a portion of Marwar in Rajputana, (8) Cutch, (9 and 10) Sind and some adjacent portion of western Rajputana (S. W. Marwar), (11) Northern Konkan and (12) *Nishada* (uncertain<sup>3</sup>)."<sup>3</sup> It is not unlikely that the Sirohi region might have been included in S. W. Marwar territories of his kingdom.

1. Early History of North India by Sudhakar Chattopadhyaya, p. 105.
2. A Comprehensive History of India Vol. II, p. 279.
3. *ibid* p. 282.

**Guptas and After**

The political disintegration that followed the dissolution of the Kushana empire continued upto the beginning of 4th century A. D. and resulted in the set up of small kingdoms and autonomous tribal states in northern India. The Gupta dynasty that arose subsequently, subdued many of these weaklings bringing them together under the standard of Gupta Empire. We have practically no details about Chandragupta, the first ruler of this dynasty, though the picture emerges somewhat clear during his successor, Samudragupta. Samudragupta made extensive conquests but it is doubtful whether he subjugated the western Rajputana. Defining the extent of Samudragupta's empire, Dr. R. C. Majumdar writes, "It comprised nearly the whole of Northern India, with the exclusion of Kashmir, western Panjab, western Rajputana, Sindh and Gujrat, and included the highlands of Chattisgarh and Orissa with a long stretch of territory along the eastern coast extending as far south as Chingleput, and probably even further"<sup>1</sup>. V. A. Smith, who calls Samudragupta as Indian Napoleon, suggests that the free tribes of Rajputana and Malwa were attached to his empire by bonds of subordinate alliance.<sup>2</sup> A. S. Altekar further adds, "the fact that no monuments of the Gupta rule have been found in Rajputana or beyond Mathura shows that the Gupta's could hardly exercise any effective control over these republics"<sup>3</sup>. However, the Gupta empire under Chandragupta II or Chandragupta Vikramaditya as he is generally known, extended as far as Gujarat and the discovery of coins of his successor, Kumara Gupta I in Sirohi region prove some sort of relation with this territory. The two silver coins found in the Sirohi State bear the device of peacock and are very much defaced.<sup>4</sup>

Skanda Gupta succeeded Kumara Gupta I and had to face Huna invasions at the outset of his reign. Toramana

1. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. III-The Classical Age, p. 12.
2. Early History of India by V.A. Smith, p. 303.
3. The Vakataka-Gupta Age edited by R.C. Majumdar and A.S. Altekar, p. 33.
4. History of Sirohi Raj by Lala Sitaram.

who made inroads either on the close of 5th century or the beginning of the sixth, is a controversial personality. While Stein Konow holds that he was a Huna, Dr. Jayaswal, Sir Aurel Stein and Fleet are of the opinion that he was a Kushana. Dr. R. C. Majumdar's<sup>1</sup> narration may suggest a possibility of his being a ruler of a separate state in Panjab. Whatever may be the truth, his coins testify that his rule extended over parts of U. P., Rajputana, Panjab and Kashmir.<sup>2</sup> He was succeeded by his ambitious son Mihirkula, who overran the territory as far as Gwalior as is evident from the inscription dated the 15th year of his reign.<sup>3</sup> Narasinha Gupta Baladitya who was the Gupta king occupying the imperial throne suffered humiliation and paid tribute to Mihirkula but later on saved the imperial glory and defeated the Huna. Acaste-Kumbhis in the Sirohi district still suffix Huna to their names and the Gaddhiya coins found in Sirohi State are ascribed to the Huna period.

It was perhaps at this troublesome period that Yasodharaman rose steadily to power at Malwa, defeated the forces of Mihirkula and gave a blow to the already tottering Gupta empire. This rebellious act perhaps gave rise to the several powerful feudatory principalities-Maukharis, the later Guptas, Maitrakas, Kalachuris, and the Gurjaras. The last mentioned of these, i.e., Gurjaras,<sup>4</sup> established their political hold around Jodhpur, and the territory of their kingdom came to be known as Gujaratra. Harichandra, the founder of this kingdom about the middle of the sixth century, was Brahmana. It is said that he had two wives—one Brahmana and another a Kshatriya. The sons born from the former became Pratihara Brahmanas while that of the latter became the founders of the royal line of the Pratiharas. It is difficult to surmise whether the Sirohi

1. The Vakataka-Gupta Age edited by R.C. Majumdar, p. 182.
2. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. III-The Classical Age, p. 35.
3. *ibid*, p. 37.
4. There is keen controversy about the origin of the Gurjaras. While some hold that they belonged to a foreign stock and came to India in the train of Hunas and advanced gradually from Panjab to Rajputana and hence to Gujarat, others believe that they were indigenous people.



region remained under the Gurjaras of Mandor or under the rulers of Vallabhi which was a powerful independent kingdom exercising supremacy over Northern Gujarat and a part of Malwa.<sup>1</sup> In a conflict between the ruler of Vallabhi and Harsha, the Gurjara of Broach probably in coalition with the parent Gurjara dynasty at Mandor, helped the Vallabhi ruler against Harsha. It is again controversial whether Harsha's empire included Vallabhi and Gurjaratra territory. It is partly solved when we learn from Hiuen-Tsang that Mo-la-po situated to the east of Mahi river was a powerful kingdom and the kingdoms of Anandpura (Ahmedabad district,) K-i-ta (Kutch or Kaira district) and Su-la-cha (Kathiawar peninsula) were subject to it. "Mo-la-po denotes the western part of Malwa with its dependent states and Vallabhi covers the whole western region south of Rajputana."<sup>2</sup> Hiuen-Tsang mentions Pi-lo-mo-lo as the capital of Gurjara kingdom which has been identified by some scholars as the modern Bhinmal in Jalore district bordering the Sirohi district. If this site is assumed as correct, the inclusion of Sirohi region in Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom during that period is beyond dispute.

An inscription dated 625 A. D. found at Basantgarh in Pindwara tahsil of the Sirohi district alludes to the existence of a suzerain king Varmalat and his feudatory Rajjila. Vajrabhata, father of Rajjila was also a feudatory of the same king. It has been further stated that Rajjila protected Mount Arbuda (Mount Abu) and his capital was Vata (i. e. Basantgarh). The place has a fort on a hillock with impressive ramparts, and several gates, but almost every thing in a ruinous state now. Unfortunately, we know nothing about this king Varmalat but it is not likely that Hiuen-Tsang, who passed through this region, referred to his kingdom as O-ch-li.<sup>3</sup>

### Paramaras

The earliest known epigraphic record of the Paramaras connect them with the families of the Rashtrakutas of Deccan

1. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. III-The Classical Age, p. 104.
2. *ibid*, p.112.
3. The History and Culture of Indian People Vol. III-The Classical Age, p. 164.

but in the inscriptions issued after the second quarter of the eleventh century, they trace their origin from fire-pit at Mount Abu. The basis for this<sup>1</sup> is perhaps the story related by Padmagupta Parimala<sup>2</sup> in the later part of the tenth century. According to this story, sage Vashishtha, in order to recover his *Kamadhenu* (wish-granting cow) from Vishwamitra who had stolen it, performed a *yajna* at Mount Abu and by his holy incantations and offerings, a hero sprang out of the fire who recovered the cow from the sage Vishwamitra and returned it to his creator. Vashishtha, in recognition of this service, gave him the name Paramara meaning 'Slayer of the enemy' and made him king.

Whatever may have been the motives behind such a story, it must have helped the Paramaras to put themselves on co-pedastal to the other Rajput dynasties, who also sought mythical origins to glorify their pedigree.

The Pratihara kingdom established some 400 years back was gradually disintegrating during 10th-11th century and the Rashtrakutas conquered Malwa and many other parts from them. Some of these conquered territories were perhaps handedover by the Rashtrakutas to their followers—the Paramaras. However, after the death of Rashtrakuta Krishna III, the Paramara Siyaka II threw off his allegiance and plundered Manyakheta, the capital of Rashtrakutas and thus earned the credit of achieving an independent status. Munja, also known as Utpala and Vakpatiraja II succeeded Siyaka II sometime between 972 A. D. and 974 A. D. He further expanded the vast kingdom which he had inherited, by frequent campaigns. He defeated the Guhilas of Mewar and attacked the Chauhans of Nadula. Mount Abu was at this time, under Sobhita, the Chauhan ruler of Nadol who had wrested it from the Mularaja I of Gujarat.<sup>3</sup> It was during Baliraja,<sup>4</sup> the son and successor of Sobhita that Munja made a severe attack on the Guhilas

1. The History and Culture of Indian People Vol. IV-The Age of Imperial Kanauj, p. 93.
2. Padmagupta alias Parimala was the author of Navasahsankacharita.
3. Early Chauhan Dynasties by Dr. Dasharatha Sharma, p. 122.
4. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. IV-The Age of Imperial Kanauj, p. 96.

of Mewar and took possession of Mount Abu from the Chauhans. "The conquered territories were divided between the princes of the Paramara dynasty for efficient administration. Munja's sons Aranyaraja and Chandana were made the governors respectively of Mount Abu and Jabalipura modern Jalore, in Jodhpur (now a district of Rajasthan adjoining Sirohi). His nephew Dusala, son of Sindhuraja, was placed in charge of Bhillamala or Srimala, modern Bhinmal in Jodhpur (now in Jalore district). Successors of these princes ruled, their respective territories for many years."<sup>1</sup>

Munja further led invasions against Mularaja of Chalukya dynasty, king of Anahilpataka, the latter met a crushing defeat and fled to Marwar with his family. Munja was succeeded by his brother Sindhuraja sometime between 993 and 998 A. D. His son Bhoja succeeded him about 1000 A. D. Bhoja came in clash with Chamundaraja (son and successor of Mularaja of Chalukya dynasty) and the latter was forced to give up his insignia when he passed through Malwa. Chamundaraja was succeeded first by Durlabharaja and then by Bhimadeva I in or about 1022 A. D. Bhimadeva I wrested Mount Abu from the Paramara Dhandhuka who was a protege of Bhoja. Hence Bhoja sacked his capital Anahillapataka. This Dhandhuk was fourth<sup>2</sup> in the line of Aranyaraja who was the son of Vakpati Munja referred to above, and was appointed Governor of Mount Abu with Chandravati as its capital. Bhima I posted Vimala of the Pragvata family as his Governor at Mount Abu who built there the famous temple of Adinath. Dhandhuka seems to have gained favour of the Chalukya Bhima I through Vimala who restored the former territories of Abu region to him. He had three sons—Purnapala, Dantivarman and Krishna II and a daughter Lahini who was married to Vigraharaj and remained with her brother Purnapala at Vasantgarh after her husband's death. She is said to have rebuilt the Sun-god temple there. The well built by her is, still called Lanavava (Lahini's well). Dhanduk was succeeded by Purnapala, who is known to have been ruling in

1. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. IV-The Age of Imperial Kanauj, p. 96.
2. The first three were: Krishanaraja, Dharanivarsha and Mahipala alias Dhruvabhata. See The Struggle for Empire, p. 72.

1042 A. D. as an independent chief of Abu. However, an inscription dated 1062 A. D. at Abu shows that the area again passed under Bhima I of Gujarat and at one time or other it remained a part of Chalukya kingdom till the end of the 13th century.

Purnapala was succeeded by Dantivarman and Krishnaraja II.

Dantivarman's son Yogaraja succeeded Krishnaraja II and the next successor was Ramadeva, son of Yogaraja. Kakaladeva, son of Krishnaraja II, appears to have usurped the throne from Ramadeva and was succeeded by his (Kakaladeva's) son Vikrama Singh who seems to have defied the Chalukyas and was imprisoned by Kumarapala. Kumarapala placed Yasodhavalā, son of Ramadeva, on the throne of Abu who probably ruled from 1145-1150 A. D. Yashodhavalā fought against Ballala (King of Malava) on behalf of Kumarapala and killed him. Yashodhavalā was succeeded by his son Dharavarsha about 1163 A. D.

Dharavarsha was a powerful ruler. He and his younger brother Prahaladan helped Kumarapala and Ajayapala (successor of Kumarapala) many a time against the neighbouring enemies. Probably after the death of Kumarapala, Rana Singh, son of the imprisoned Vikram Singh referred to above, usurped the territory of Mount Abu but restored it to Dharavarsha after a short while. Prithviraja III who invaded the territory of Bhima II of Gujarat was repulsed by Dharavarsha. He, however, suffered a defeat at the hands of Khusrav, a general of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, near the foot of Mount Abu. He also helped Viradhavalā of Gujarat against an attack of Sultan Iltutmash.

He was succeeded by his younger brother Prahaladana, the author of the drama *Partha-parakrama*<sup>1</sup> and founder of the city of Prahaladanpur (modern Palanpur). He was succeeded by Som Singh, son of Dharavarsha, sometime before 1230. During his period the temple of Neminath called Lunavashi was built by Vastupala (1230 A.D.).

Recapitulating the other ramifications of the Paramara dynasty in the neighbourhood at this time, the two at

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1. The theme of the drama is connected with Arjuna and the Virata.

Jalore and Bhinmal (now in Jalore district), stand foremost. As referred to above, Chandana, son of Munja was placed as governor of Jalore. The last known ruler in this line was Kumtapala; the other being Devaraja, Aparajita, Vijjala, Dharavarsha and Visala. In the later part of the 12th century, the territory passed on to the Chauhan Kirtipala of Nadol. The Paramara dynasty at Bhinmal was founded by Dusala, the son of Sindhuraja. In the early years of the 13th century, this territory was conquered by the Chauhans of Southern Marwar.

### MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

With the defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan, the Muslim power began to establish itself in India. What Qutb-ud-din had conquered, his successors endeavoured to consolidate. Gujarat had already suffered a severe defeat and other Hindu rulers were in constant fear. At Chandravati, Paramara Som Singh was succeeded by Krishnaraja and then by Pratap Singh.

Samar Singh, the Guhila of Mewar had wrested Mount Abu from Krishnaraja (father of Pratap Singh) but he could not hold it for long, for Pratap Singh reconquered it with the help of Vaghela Sarangadeva sometime between 1285 and 1287 A.D. It is thus probable that Pratap Singh ruled as a feudatory of Sarangadeva. He was succeeded by his son Arjuna who is known to have been ruling in 1290 A.D.

A solitary inscription at Barman in the Sirohi district, dated V. S. 1356, indicates that Vikramasimha Paramara, son and successor of Pratapamalla Paramara ruled at Chandravati up to this date and the territory of Chandravati and Mount Abu passed on to the Chauhans<sup>1</sup> between this date and V. S. 1372. But at the same time it can not be denied that some parts of Sirohi district were under the control of Chauhans during this period. This is corroborated by the recent discovery<sup>2</sup> of a Chahamana inscription at Barlut in Sirohi district. It is engraved in Nagari characters on a stone slab kept in the Santinatha temple. The inscription

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1. Early Chauhan Dynasties by Dr. Dasharatha Sharma, p.175-76.

2. Indian Archaeology—A Review 1958-59, p.60.

which is in Sanskrit is divided in three parts. The first part, dated in V. S. 1283, *Jyeshtha Sudi* 8, Thursday, in the reign of Songira (Jalore) Chahamana Maharajaka Udayasimha mentions Yasodhira as the king's minister and records that Rajan Abhata, alongwith his sons, made certain gifts in favour of Santinatha and of the Mananasimha-Vihara for the merit of Rao Mananasimha, the son of Gajasimha of Mandore and the grandson and the great-grandson respectively of Alhana and Asaraja of Nadula. The second part dated *Vikrama* 1330, *Phalgun Sudi* 11, Sunday (18th February A. D. 1274) in the reign of Mahamandalesvara Chachigadeva, states that Rao Abhata, alongwith his sons, built the Mananasimha-Vihara for the merit of Rao Mananasimha. The third part refers to some pious deeds of Sree Padmasimha of the Pragvata community and to Purnabhadra-suri of Brihadgachchha. The first part corroborates Sri Dasharatha Sharma's genealogy of the Nadol house of Chahamanas. Yasodhira must have been Yasovira, the able minister of Udayasimha. What was the meritorious service rendered by Mananasimha (Manavasimha)? we precisely do not know. The definite conclusion that can be drawn from this discovery is that some parts of this district were already under the Chauhan of Nadula and that they had great reverence for Jainism.

### Deoras

Paramaras Kumtapala and Viranarayana of Jalore and Siwana respectively were betrayed by their servants and the territories passed on to Kirttipala Chauhan whose son and successor was Samrasimha. He died around 1205 A. D. and was succeeded by his son Udayasimha. The descendants of Manavasimha, the elder son of Samrasimha became the founder of Deora line at Chandravati and Abu. Dr. Dasharatha Sharma remarks, "Pratapamalla's (son of Manavasimha) son, Vijada, known also as Dasasyandana or Dasaratha, probably laid the foundations of the Deora kingdom of the Abu area, first by operating as a captain of Chachigadeva's (son of Udayasimha) forces and later on by making new conquests on his own account. In the Delwara inscription of V. S. 1377, he is described as the lord of Maru-mandala."<sup>1</sup> Vijada must have come to the throne about V. S. 1340 and the Tonkra inscription (in Sirohi district)

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1. Early Chauhan Dynasties by Dr. Dasharatha Sharma, p. 174.

mentioning a certain Vijada in V. S. 1232 might be alluding to some other person of the same name.<sup>1</sup>

Bijad had four sons by his queen Namalladevi—Lavanyakarana, Lundha, Laksmāna and Lunavarman. G. H. Ojha mentions that the eldest son Lavanyakarna died during his father's life time. However Dr. Dashratha Sharma, disagrees and holds the view that he was successor of Bijad. He further mentions that as a result of the onslaughts of Alauddin Khilji over the Chauhan principalities of Siwana, San chore and Jalore, thousands of them must have sought refuge with Lavanyakarna, his small principality being the only island of safety in the sea of troubles that seem to be engulfing the Chauhans everywhere.<sup>2</sup> Nainsi narrates the story of the occupation of Abu by the Chauhans as follows: "Formerly the Paramaras ruled at Abu. Rawal Kanhadadeva was then the ruler of Jalore. It was then that Devada Vijada's sons, Jaswant, Samara, Luna, Lumbha, Lakha and Tejsi settled down near the Siranwa hill, which is not far from Sirohi. They possessed no land. So they decided to capture Abu somehow. At that time a bard of the Paramaras came to them. They entertained him well and he carried to the Paramara ruler of Abu the proposal that the Paramaras should marry the twenty-five daughters of the Chauhans. They agreed but desired one of the Chauhan brothers as a surety. Luna accompanied the bard in that capacity. He stayed with the Paramara chief and twenty-five Paramara bridegrooms set out to marry the Chauhan maidens with a small entourage. Twenty-five Chauhan youths disguised themselves as brides and on receiving a set signal killed the twenty-five Paramara bridegrooms. The rest of the Paramaras who were by that time under the influence of strong drinks, were easily done to death and news was sent to Luna through a bard. As soon as he heard it; he told the Paramara chief that Abu belonged to Chauhans and that he would kill him as his brothers had killed the other Paramaras. This led to a fight in which both of them died. In the meanwhile, the Chauhans reached Abu and captured it."<sup>3</sup>

1. *Early Chauhan Dynasties* by Dr. Dasharatha Sharma, p. 174.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Quoted from Dr. Dasharatha Sharma's *Early Chauhan Dynasties*, p. 176.

**Lumbha**

The accepted date of Lumbha's occupation of the territories round Abu and Chandravati is 1311 A. D. (1368 V. S.) though Nainsi gives this date as 1159 A. D. An inscription of the time of Lumbha dated 1320 A. D. (1377 V. S.) in the Achaleshwar temple records that the country was acquired by his own valour. Lumbha is said to have installed his and his queen's statues in the Achaleshwar temple. He abolished many vexatious pilgrim taxes levied by the Paramara rulers. Devi Shah was his Chief Minister.

Two inscriptions in Vimal Shah temple (1372 and 1373 V. S. or 1315 and 1316 A. D.) mention the name of Lumbha's two sons—Tej Singh and Tehunaka. Tej Singh ruled from 1320 A. D. (1377 V. S.) to 1336 A. D. (1393 V. S.) with Chandravati as his capital. He endowed three villages—Jhabatu, Jyaluli and Tejalapura to the temple of Vashishtha, though he himself might have been a *Saiva* like his father. He was succeeded by his son Kanhadadeva in 1336 A. D. (1393 V. S.) and then by Samant Singh in 1343 A. D. Kanhadadeva repaired the new temple of Vashishtha at Abu. After Samant Singh the rule passed over to Salkha, son of Tehunaka. Salkha was succeeded by his son Rannal in 1374 A. D. and then by his (Salkha's) grandson, Shivabhan in 1392 A. D. popularly known as Sobha. Sobha founded the town of Shivapuri (old Sirohi, east of the present town of Sirohi) in 1405 A. D. (1462 V. S.) and built a fort on the top of Siranwa hill. Sainsmal, son of Sobha, who ascended the throne in 1424 A. D., founded the present town of Sirohi twenty years later (1425 A. D.) abandoned the former, i. e., Chandravati and made it his capital. He appears to have extended his dominion up to Mal Magra in the north but no authentic material exists to mark the exact boundaries of his territories.

Rana Kumbha of Mewar and Sainsmal were contemporaries and the former being an ambitious ruler, sent an army to Abu under Dodia Nar Singh, and established his sovereignty over Abu, Vasantgarh and the contiguous areas. He is said to have built a castle at Vasantgarh and another at Abu (Achalgarh) and also a tank and a temple of Kumbhaswami near the shrine of Achaleshwar in 1452 A. D. (1509 V. S.). The story of the occupation of Abu region by Kumbha and its subsequent recovery by Lakha is narrated by the local



chroniclers as follows:

“Rana Kumbha of Mewar, having been defeated by Qutb-ud-din of Gujarat, took refuge at Achalgarh and subsequently, when the Musalman army had retired from his territories, refused to leave such a place of vantage, and had to be forcibly expelled by Lakha, the son and successor of Sains Mal, with the aid of troops from Gujarat and Malwa. This is the local story, and it is stated that, in consequence of this affair, Rao Lakha swore that no chief should ever be allowed on the hill—an oath which remained in force till 1836 when, through the intervention of Colonel Speirs (then Political Agent of Mewar), Maharana Jawan Singh was permitted to proceed to Abu on a pilgrimage to the temples. Since then the prohibition has been withdrawn, and several chiefs of Rajputana now visit the place yearly.”<sup>1</sup>

Whether Lakha recovered the territory of his own or was assisted in the act by Qutb-ud-din is a matter to be considered. Lakha succeeded his father Sains Mal in 1451 A. D. At this time, Qutb-ud-din Ahmad Shah or Ahmad Shah II had occupied the throne of Gujarat who was on unfriendly terms with Maharana Kumbha of Mewar. Sometime after 1457 A. D. when he marched against Kumbha, he attacked Sirohi which was ruled by a relation of Maharana. After burning Sirohi and ravaging other towns on his way, Qutb-ud-din besieged the famous fort of Kumbhalgarh, while his ally, Sultan Mahmud Khalji of Malwa advanced towards Chittor.”<sup>2</sup>

There is a possibility that Kumbha, apprehending this attack, withdrew some of his contingents from Abu and this offered an opportunity for Lakha, who captured Vasantgarh and Abu. The forces of Qutb-ud-din might have assisted this action indirectly by harassing the troops of Kumbha in this region.

Lakha is said to have fought another battle against Bhoja Solanki. The Solanki chronicles give this date as 1531 A. D. and add that Lakha was slain with his three sons and Bhoja with his five. However, Lakha had died long before this date.

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1. Rajputana Gazetteer, p. 239.

2. The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. VI-The Delhi Sultanate, p. 161.

Lakha had seven sons—Jagmal, Hammair, Uda, Shanker, Prithiraj, Mandar and Rane Rao, and a daughter Champa Kumari who was married to Maharana Raimal of Mewar.

#### **Jagmal**

Jagmal came to power in 1483 A. D. He is said to have fought on the side of Rana Rai Mal of Mewar against a king of Delhi in 1474 A. D. (perhaps against Sultan Bahlol Lodi). The latter was routed and the Rana so much pleased that he gave one of his daughters to Jagmal, “conferring his title to Abu as her dower”.

*Mirat-i-Sikandari* mentions that in 1488 A. D. (892 H.) some merchants were looted by the Raja of Sirohi “and had not left them even an old pair of trousers.” Mahmud Shah Begarha of Gujarat therefore, threatened the Raja and recovered the looted merchandise. Jagmal is also said to have fought a battle against Malik Mazahid Khan of Jalore and made him a captive.

He had five queens. From Anand Bai, daughter of Maharana Raisingh of Mewar, he had three sons—Akheraj, Megjal and Duda and a daughter Padmavati who was married to Maharaja Ganga of Jodhpur.

#### **Akheraj I**

Akheraj I who succeeded Jagmal, ruled from 1523 A. D. to 1533 A. D. His name is mentioned among the rulers who joined the confederacy against Babar. Dr. G. N. Sharma remarks that he escorted the wounded Rana Sanga from the battle of Khanua to a safer place, called Baswa.<sup>1</sup> He must have enjoyed a high reputation even before this battle. K. D. Erskine writes “Akha or Akhai Raj I, who has a local reputation for bravery, is said to have captured the Musalman governor of Jalore (releasing him only on payment of a heavy ransom), and built (in 1525) the fort of Lohiana, which was levelled to the ground in 1883-84 and is now represented by a village of Jaswantpura. His son and successor Rai Singh (ruled from 1533-1543 A. D.) contrived to save Chittor when Bahadur Shah of Gujarat laid a siege in 1535 A. D. *Vir Vinod* records that Rai Singh showed great valour and skill when he was in the forces of Marwar and Mewar. In 1543 A. D. (1660 V. S.) he invaded

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1. *Mewar and the Mughal Emperors*, by Dr. G.N. Sharma, p. 34.

Bhinmal against Jalori Pathan and died there when an arrow struck him. He was succeeded by his brother Duda (ruled from 1543-1553 A. D.) and the latter by Udai Singh, son of Rai Singh (ruled from 1553-1562 A. D.). Udai Singh died of small-pox and seven of his queens became *sati* after him.

### Man Singh II

Man Singh, son of Duda succeeded Udai Singh. He was in the attendance of the Maharana of Mewar at the time of Udai Singh's death. Apprehending the danger for Man Singh and the gobbling of the Sirohi dominions by Rana, a trustworthy messenger, Sahmi Jaimal, was sent to Mewar to break the news to him in confidence. It is said that Man Singh left the Rana's court on the pretext of hunting the wild pigs, reached Sirohi where his *sardars* accepted him as their ruler. This action of Man Singh enraged Rana who demanded six villages from him. However, Man Singh, managed to satisfy him and sent him presents. By some historians, Man Singh is condemned for his wanton cruelty towards his minister Panchayan Paramara. He ruled the territory for about nine years. Muhnot Nainsi credits him for conquering the Kolis and annexing their territory. About 1572 A. D. he died at Mount Abu. It is said that Kalla Paramara who was a nephew of Panchayan referred to above and whom Man Singh had poisoned, killed Man Singh and thus avenged the death of his uncle. Others believe that he was poisoned. On his death bed, he named Surtan, son of Bhana, a descendant of Uda (son of Lakha), as his successor.

### Maharao Surtan

Surtan was only 12 years old when he came to the throne in 1572 A. D. Rani Baharmeri of the late Man Singh also lived with him but apprehending a possible danger for her own son, she went away to her parents. Deora Bija Harrajot, a minister of late Man Singh, saw his own interests in restoring the throne to the son of Man Singh and put Surtan aside. Suja, uncle of Surtan, smelt the conspiracy but was soon assassinated by Bija.

After Suja's death, Bija invited the son of Man Singh to Sirohi but the infant soon died, and finding himself in danger, Surtan also left Sirohi. The throne being vacant, Bija occupied it for himself. He was overthrown after

four months by Deora Kalla, a grandson of Maharao Jagmal. Bija fled to Idar.

Kalla thus became the Maharao of Sirohi and Deora *sardars* (Samra and Harraj) gathered round him. But soon dissensions arose among them and these *sardars* invited Bija to collaborate with Surtan and overthrow Kalla. Bija agreed and a battle ensued about a *Kos* from village Barman between Hamavat and Bija, the former was killed by Kalla. Perhaps assistance was also sought from Malik Khan of Jalore against Kalla on the condition to surrender four *parganas* of Siyana, Baragaon, Lohiana and Dodial. The final battle was fought and won near Kalandri about the year 1574 A.D. Bija was pardoned by Surtan for his past perfidy. Thus for the second time, Surtan occupied the throne at the age of 15 with Bija as Chief Minister.

Akbar had adopted the policy of expansion and it was in 1573 A.D., perhaps just after the first accession of Rao Surtan that Sirohi came in direct conflict with the Mughals. When Akbar was on his expedition to Gujarat, he had sent a force in advance under Mir Muhammad Khan. When Muhammad Khan reached Sirohi, the Raja of that place professed subjection and obedience, and sent some Rajputs as envoys to wait upon him. The envoys having delivered their message, Muhammed Khan gave them an appropriate answer and fine robes and then, "according to the etiquette observed among the people of India", slew them with his own hand. At this moment, one of the Rajputs "stabbed the Khan in the breast, the weapon piercing through to his back under the shoulder; the assassin was immediately cut down, and the Khan's wound, having been promptly attended to, healed in fifteen days. When the emperor himself arrived at Sirohi, "eighty Rajputs in a temple and seventy in the Raja's house stood ready to perform the vow they had made to die. In a few moments they were all killed. Dost Muhammad, son of Tatar Khan, perished in the Raja's house". Commissariat, describing the Gujarat expedition of Akbar, remarks, "passing by Mirtha, the royal camp arrived at Sirohi, where a murderous attack had been made by Deora Rajput on the Khan-i-Kalan when he was passing through. Akbar ordered a charge to be made on the Rajputs at Sirohi to punish them for the offence and in this skirmish about 150 of them were slain.<sup>1</sup>

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1. History of Gujarat Vol. I, p 507.

In 1576 A.D. when Rao Surtan assumed hostile attitude, Akbar sent an army to subdue him under Rao Rai Singh of Bikaner. Surtan killed several relations of Rai Singh and then retired to Abu hills. In the meanwhile, Sirohi was captured and Abu was subsequently surrendered. Rai Singh, leaving a garrison at Abu, took the Deora to Akbar's court.<sup>1</sup>

In 1580, Mughal Empire was divided into provinces. Ajmer was one such province (*Suba*) and Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Sirohi were made subordinate to it. Commissariat however, mentions that Sirohi was one of the larger feudatory principalities attached to the Mughal *Suba* of Gujarat.

When Rai Singh Chandrasen, a grandson of Rao Maldeo proceeded to Gujarat, through Sirohi, Bija waited upon him and wanted the throne of Sirohi to be restored to himself in lieu of which it was stipulated that half the State will be made over to Akbar. Rai Singh, on the other hand, asked Surtan that he would be relieved of all the troubles from the side of Bija if he surrendered half of the State to Akbar. Surtan agreed and Madan Pal was posted with an army of 500 soldiers to govern the emperor's territory. Thus half of the Sirohi State became *Khalsa*.

After the death of Udai Singh of Mewar, trouble arose in that State and the disgruntled Jagmal approached Akbar. His case was redeemed and being qualified for the throne of Sirohi, *firman* was issued in 1583 A.D. putting him in occupation of half of the Sirohi State.

Now, both Surtan and Jagmal ruled over Sirohi. For sometime things went on well but soon dissensions arose. One day in Surtan's absence, Bija and Jagmal attacked the seraglio but were repulsed. Fearing fatal consequences of the abortive attempt, Jagmal left Sirohi, reached Delhi and from there a contingent under Maharao Rai Singh of Jodhpur was sent by Akbar sometime in 1583-84 to subdue Surtan. Surtan left Sirohi and retired to Mt. Abu. Jagmal occupied Sirohi and marched towards Achalgarh. A battle

1. However, Commissariat believes that the Deora who had shown signs of disaffection yielded to persuasion and rendered personal homage to the Emperor. "History of Gujarat" Vol II, p. 9.

ensued near Datani, and Jagmal, Rai Singh and several men of the imperial forces were killed, though Abul Fazal states that Jagmal and Rai Singh were killed in the palace.

Another expedition was sent in 1588 A.D. against Surtan by Akbar under Mota Raja Udai Singh of Marwar. Bija, the sole prime mover of the intrigue was killed at Vasthan and Mota Raja Udai Singh put Kalla on the throne of Sirohi. But as soon as he turned his back, Surtan came down to Sirohi from Mount Abu and captured the capital.

Once he is said to have been taken by treachery to Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur who took him to Akbar's court. "He was instructed to perform that profound obeisance, from which none were exempted. But the haughty Deorah replied, 'His life was in the king's hands, his honour in his own; he had never bowed the head to mortal man, and never would'. As Jaswant Singh had pledged himself for his honourable treatment, the officers of the ceremonies endeavoured by strategem to obtain a constrained obeisance, and instead of introducing him as usual, they showed him a wicket, knee high, and very low overhead, by which to enter, but, putting his feet foremost, his head was the last part to appear. This stubborn ingenuity, his noble bearing and his long protracted resistance, added by Jaswant Singh's pledge, won the king's favour; and he not only proffered him pardon, but whatever lands he might desire. Though the king did not name the return, Surthan was well aware of the terms, but he boldly and quickly replied, 'What can your majesty bestow equal to Achalgarh? Let me return to it, is all I ask.'

"The king had the magnanimity to comply with his request; Surthan was allowed to retire to the castle of Abu, nor did he or any of the Deoras ever rank themselves amongst the vassals of the empire; but they have continued to the present hour a life of almost savage independence".<sup>1</sup>

Surtan is said to have fought fifty battles. There is a controversy about the date of his death. While some historians assign it in 1610, others put it somewhere between 1620-22 A.D.

1. Tod's Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan Vol. II, Chapter VI.

Raj Singh, the eldest son of Surtan succeeded him. Sur Singh, the younger brother of Raj Singh, became the chief minister and being an ambitious man, entered into a conspiracy with Surat Singh, the Maharaja of Jodhpur, to depose Raj Singh and instal himself on the throne of Sirohi. But these evil designs soon filtered to Raj Singh, a sort of civil war followed resulting in the exile of Sur Singh.

Prithviraj Sujawat, the next chief minister, was also a source of trouble to the ruler. The Maharao was once successful in expelling Prithviraj from Sirohi but the latter again intruded in the palace of the Maharao and slew him. However, the infant prince, Akheraj II was protected from his clutches. Soon after the incident, Prithviraj had to retreat in the face of the brave resistance and Akheraj II, was put on the throne of Sirohi. He avenged his father's death by slaying Prithviraj but the latter's son, Chanda, ravaged the country, seized Nimaj and defeated a body of Sirohi troops sent against him. On Chanda's death, his son Amar Singh remained in outlawry for a time, and was driven away from the State.

It is said that Udaibhan, the eldest son of Akheraj usurped the throne in 1663 A.D. put his father in prison, but he was soon deposed with the help of Maharao Raj Singh of Marwar, a close friend of Maharao Akheraj. "The Maharao then retaliated by killing both his son and his grandson".

At this juncture, the Mughal empire had been facing a crucial ordeal due to war of succession and princes Dara and Murad are said to have entered in correspondence with the Maharao. "It is evident from these *nishans* that Dara wanted to secure the alliance of the Maharao, because he had an intention of humiliating his brother Murad, and this correspondence as also the fact that Murad sent only one *nishan*, shows that Akheraj was willing to take the part of Dara."<sup>1</sup> Dara while proceeding from Gujarat to Agra in order to encounter Aurangzeb, had made a short sojourn at Sirohi.

Akheraj died in 1673 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Uday Singh II, who ruled for a brief period of two and half years and was then succeeded by his nephew Bairisal I (son of Uday Bhan, brother of Uday Singh) in 1676 A.D.

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1. History of Sirohi Raj by Lala Sita Ram.

It was during the reign of Bairisal I that Ajit Singh, son of Jaswant Singh of Marwar, was brought by Soning and others to Sirohi to Jaswant Singh's widow Anand Kanwar Deori, and was concealed at Kalandri<sup>1</sup> for some time. When Akbar, son of Aurangzeb rebelled, Bairisal was asked to capture or kill the rebel, should he enter his territory. Bairisal is said to have died in 1697 A.D. but the date is controversial. He was succeeded by Chhatrasal sometimes called Durjan Singh and then by Man Singh III, also known as Umed Singh. Umed Singh died in 1749 and was succeeded by Prithvi Raj (1749-72), Takht Singh (1772-81) and Jagat Singh (1781-82). He left four sons—Bairisal, Sagat Singh, Badai Singh and Daulat Singh.

Bairisal II came to the throne in 1782 A.D. His was a reign of turmoil and revolts. The ruler of Palanpur had wrested many villages of Sirohi. Maharao's own *sirdars* were busy in hatching intrigues and augment their jagirs. To meet this situation, Bairisal formed a powerful army composed of Sindhi and Makrani Musalmans. An unsuccessful expedition was made against Palanpur. Soon after, the widow of Thakur Amar Singh of Landri and Thakur Sawai Singh of Pindwara raised insurrections which were promptly foiled. He also incurred the displeasure of Man Singh of Jodhpur.

Bairisal II died in 1807 A.D. and was succeeded by Udaibhan. The relations with Jodhpur further deteriorated in the succeeding years with regard to the payment of ransom forced by Man Singh. In 1812, Sirohi was plundered by the forces of Jodhpur. Maharaja Bijai Singh of Jodhpur is said to have annexed a good deal of territory from the Deoras. When Man Singh was besieged in the fort of Jalore by his cousin Maharaja Bhim Singh, the former sent his wife and son

1. Ajit Singh was sent to the village of Kalandri in Sirohi territory to the house of Jaideva Pushkarna (Jaggi), as his wife was a *Patirata*. Khinchi Mukand Das disguised as a *sanyasi* took up his residence in the neighbourhood to keep a watch on the young Maharaja. Ajit was brought up by Jaideva "Ajmer Historical and Descriptive" by H. B. Sarda, p. 168 also see *Marwar-ku-Mool Itihas* by Pt. Ramkaran Asopa, p. 194.

2. *Rajputana-Itihas--Sirohi Rajya*, by J. S. Gahlot edited by S. S. Gahlot and G. R. Parihar, p. 59.



(Chhatar Singh) for safety to a village in Sirohi but the Rao (Bairisal) fearing to offend Bhim Singh, refused them shelter and this was never forgiven. When Udai Bhan, the son and successor of Bairisal was returning from performing his father's funeral obsequies on the banks of Ganges, he was seized by Man Singh (now Maharaja of Jodhpur) and was forced to pay ransom of five lakhs of rupees. Maharao retaliated this by invading some villages of Jodhpur State. During a punitive attack in 1818 A.D. by Muta Sahib Chand, Udaibhan fled to hills. "The capital was ransacked for eight days and the Jodhpur army went back with considerable booty. Seeing his country thus desolated, the Maharao now thought it safer in the interest of the State to pay off the ransom. The State treasury was empty and bankers were now coerced."<sup>1</sup>

"Udaibhan's tyranny became unbearable, and alienated the affections even of his own kinsmen. Moreover, he was never forgiven for signing away Deora independence when kidnapped and carried away to Jodhpur. A convocation of nobles and principal inhabitants, therefore declared him unfit to rule, and approached his brother Sheo Singh who was then living in Nandia. Sheo Singh consented to take the reins of government into his hands."<sup>2</sup>

Consequently, Sheo Singh acted as regent till Udaibhan spending 20 years in captivity, died in 1846 A.D.

### BRITISH PERIOD

#### Maharao Sheo Singh

His reign can be divided into two periods 1/2 on 1817-1846 A.D. when he acted as a regent and 1846-1853 A.D. when he ruled as Maharao.

As has been mentioned in the preceding pages, the State had fallen in a state of anarchy, the *thakurs* and petty chiefs feasting like vultures on the tottering and almost crumbled throne. Lawlessness was the order of the day. It was

1. Lala Sita Ram's History of Sirohi Raj, p. 220.

2. Travels in Western India by Lt. Col. James Tod, p. 71.

under these circumstances that Sheo Singh corresponded with the Political Agent at Baroda for assistance, who directed the Maharao to negotiate through James Tod. Tod himself narrates:

“It (Sirohi) possessed peculiar claims to my regard, its political relations having been entirely under my management since the general pacification in 1817-18, and its independence, both political and social, having been preserved, entirely through my exertions, from the specious pretensions of her powerful neighbour, the Raja of Marwar, who claimed her as a tributary. These claims were so well supported by argument and documentary evidence, as to obtain credence with the functionary who was then the medium of the political relations of Marwar with the British Government and they had nearly obtained the sanction of the Governor-General Marquess Hastings. It was on this occasion, as on several others, that some historical knowledge of the complicated international politics of these regions, enabled me to unravel the perplexities of the case, and save the lands of the Deoras from the relentless tribute-collectors of their powerful opponent.”

“.....The envoys of Jodpoor advanced their right to tribute and service from the time of Raja Abhi Singh, which claims I met with counter-proofs of their own annals, shewing that, although the quotas of Sirohi had served under the princes of Jodpoor, it was as Viceroys of the empire, not as Rajas of Marwar; and that, in the wars of Guzzerat, where the Deora sword was second to none, it was under the imperial banner that they fought with Abhi Singh as generalissimo. These were distinctions in political casuistry for which they were unprepared but as a corollary, they then adduced the services actually performed by the chieftain of Neemaj, the first of the Sirohi nobles. This argument was met by the reply that there were traitors and time servers in every state, as none better knew than the Raja of Jodpoor, and that Sirohi, being too reduced in power to punish or protect her vassalage, was no exception to the rule. Moreover, Neemaj, being exposed on the borders of Marwar, was at the mercy of its enemies; but more than all, this chief being already *primus inter pares*, whom “one step higher would make highest”, looked to the aid of Jodpoor to attain this. When they found their documents would not bear out their claims for tributary service, they tried the pecuniary part, presenting

a schedule of unconnected levies made by predatory incursions as time and opportunity served; but no continuous, regular, conditional payment, nor written stipulation to legalise lawless inroads, chiefly by the provincial governors acting for themselves, appeared to substantiate this plea. They did produce one deed, it is true, signed by the elder brother of the present prince, admitting on certain conditions, his subordinacy to Jodpoor; but they warily omitted to state the position of the prince when this document was drawn up, namely, that he was a captive, in the power of his would be lord-paramount, having been kidnapped while in the act of conveying his father's ashes to the Ganges. Most wisely, most justly, then, did the Deora feudality regard this deed, extorted by so unworthy an expedient, as so much waste paper; nor was there a single rupee voluntarily remitted to the Jodpoor treasury on this account.

“When every other argument failed, they set up one, of some validity, viz., that, as Sarohi could not control or chastise her depredators, from whose inroads they suffered, this power ought to be in their hands, and they further supported the demand by instancing a recent outrage, in which the bands of Ootwun and Machal had made an incursion into Marwar, when loss of life and property ensued. The case was well authenticated, and made an impression on the conservators of order; but when the wholesome maxim “*audi alteram partem*” was enforced, not only were the Meena subjects of Jodpoor found to have united in this raid, but the provocation to have originated within Marwar. Moreover, it was pertinently asked by the envoy of Sarohi, if the raids of our Meenas, whom we cannot all at once control, afford pretexts for the troops of Jodpoor to enter our territory and there establish posts (which was actually done), what reply will the Raja of Marwar give to the British Government for the enormities committed by the hill tribes under his dominion against all his neighbours? All these arguments, though managed with great skill and subtlety, were unavailing when confronted with the truth; and I finally placed the independence of Sarohi beyond the reach of fate, obtaining for myself, in lieu the hatred of the prince of Jodpoor, his varlet ministers and envoys, with the doubtful gratitude of the Deoras, whose lands were yet the scene of division and discontent. The desire of Marquess Hastings, however, to conciliate all conflicting interests, inclined him to soothe the wounded pride of Raja Maun, whose attempts to establish supremacy over the Deoras were thus frustrated.

To this end, at a very early period of the discussion, I had suggested that he should be invited to submit a schedule of his tributary collections for the last ten years, the average amount of which was to be henceforth annually paid to him through the British Government. While I submitted this to my Government, as a test of the justice of this claims, I knew that I was neither overburdening the finances of Sarohi, nor trenching upon their independence. It fully answered the end. Raja Maun could prove no continuous exactions, and though in every other respect very unlike angel visitors, they had, like these, at long intervals, exacted contributions, but always *au bout du fusil*. For a few thousand rupees, annually paid to the British Government by Sarohi, who, however, protested against being a party to its ultimate disposition, which might otherwise at some future period again have involved her independence, she was enfranchised for ever from the claims of Marwar, and now looks to the British Government alone."<sup>1</sup>

Thus, a treaty was concluded between the British Government and Maharao Sheo Singh on 11th September, 1823, and ratified by the Governor-General in Council on 31st October, 1823 (see Appendix A).

To set the internal administration in order, Maharao borrowed a sum of Rs. 50,000 without interest from the British Government. A political Officer (Captain Speirs) was accordingly appointed and, owing to the disorganised condition of the State, had at first to exercise an unusual interference in its internal affairs. A detachment of Bombay troops was employed for a short time to put down the Minas and other predatory bands, the Thakurs were in a great measure reduced to submission, and a system of government was introduced. Shortly after Captain Speirs' deputation, Sheo Singh, considering himself aggrieved at certain suggested reforms, fled to Abu where he was joined by most of his principal *jagirdars*. Prem Singh of Nibaj being the only one of note who held back—but the mis-understanding did not last long, and the Rao recognising the error he had committed, returned to his capital at the end of 1825."<sup>2</sup>

1. Travels in Western India by Lt. Col. J. Tod, p. 60-64.

2. Rajputana Gazetteer by K.D. Erskine, p. 245.

Soon after, the uprisings of the Thakurs of Nimaj (Rai Singh) and Rohua were suppressed and their obedience obtained. The disputes between Jodhpur and Sirohi and Palanpur and Sirohi over certain villages were settled. In 1828 A.D. the Article VIII of the Treaty of 1823 A.D. was modified by which the revenue was reduced.

“The objects for which a Political Officer had been stationed at Sirohi having been attained, he was recalled in the middle of 1832, and our (British) relations with this small State were placed under the Nimach Agency. The measure of withdrawing the Political Officer was distasteful to Sheo Singh, who petitioned hard not only to have an Agent permanently located at his capital but also a detachment of regular troops. A few years later, it was found that the State could not be properly supervised from Nimach (where the Political Agent of Mewar resided) and the charge was transferred to Major Downing, Commandant of the Jodhpur Legion which was cantoned at Erinpura. The presence of a British Officer on the spot, supported by this body of troops, greatly conduced to the restoration of the order, and the amelioration of Sirohi may be considered as dating from this time.”<sup>1</sup>

Many disputes between the Maharao and the neighbouring chiefs and Thakurs were settled by the intervention of the British Officers. In 1845, certain portions on Abu were made over to the British Government for a sanitorium. Lateron, it was made the summer headquarters of the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.

Maharao Udaibhan passed away in 1846 A.D. and the regent Sheo Singh became the Chief. The latter part of his life was spent in suppressing the Bhils and Minas who were turbulent and committed highway robbery. The uprising and outlawry of Nathu Singh, Thakur of Bhatana also occurred during his reign (1853 A.D.). The dis-satisfaction arose on the transfer of two villages belonging to Nathu Singh to Palanpur on the occasion of settlement of boundary between Sirohi and Palanpur and consequent refusal by Nathu Singh to accept other lands given in lieu thereof. He was pursued hotly by Jodhpur Legion, was arrested and sentenced to six years' imprisonment but he managed

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1. *Rajputana Gazetteer* by K.D. Erskine, p. 245.

to escape after five years. However, he was again negotiated and pacified.

"In 1854, Rao Sheo Singh finding himself hampered by debt and unable to keep order, solicited and obtained from Government the services of a British Officer to exercise special superintendence over the affairs of his State; this arrangement was intended to last for eight years, but was subsequently extended to eleven, as the liquidation of the debts was considerably retarded by the Mutiny of 1857. During this period the expenditure was kept within certain limits, but, with this exception, the superintendency appears to have been confined to the settlement of such question as threatened to disturb the peace of the country and to the introduction of such reforms as were urgently needed. In other respects, the chief was left practically unfettered, and but little interference was exercised in internal affairs; yet, even with this degree of supervision, trade and cultivation increased, and the condition of Sirohi was much improved." <sup>1</sup>

#### Upheaval of 1857

"In 1914 V.E. (1857 A.D.) the sepoys in the army of the British Government mutinied and the contagion spread to Erinpura. Captain Hall, the Commanding Officer, was then at Abu, and Captain Black, the second-in-command, was at Nasirabad. Only lieutenant Conolly, the Adjutant, and some sergeants with their families were then at Erinpura. A company of infantry which was sent to punish the Thakur of Rohua reached Anadra on the 19th August and joined two companies of rebels at Abu. There were at Abu only a few English Officers, women and children with forty or fifty sick men of the 83rd Regiment. Fortunately, however, the mutineers could do no harm. They fired on the barracks whereupon the English soldiers tried their guns and they fled. Another party of soldiers fired shots on Captain Hall's house but nobody was injured. Mr. Alexander Lawrence, son of the then Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, was at Abu with his mother and sister. On hearing the report of gun near Captain Hall's house he came out. The sepoys fired on him and a shot pierced his thigh. Captain Hall and Dr. Young, the medical officer, came out with a

party of men and drove the mutineers down the hill. In Erinpura, three European gentlemen, two ladies and five children took refuge in the cavalry lines. There they were helped in escaping by a sepoy named Maharban Singh. Lieutenant Conolly, however, was taken prisoner. As soon as the news of mutiny at Erinpura reached the Maharao, he ordered Niamat Ali Khan to proceed there with assistance. Munshi Niamat Ali Khan met the mutineers at Bargaon and brought back the ladies and children to Sirohi where the Maharao lodged them comfortably in his palace.

"Lieutenant Conolly had yet to be rescued. Niamat Ali Khan therefore pursued the mutineers vigorously and after two days of hard marching met him in the custody of two troopers Abbas Ali and Ilahi Bux, whom he bribed. Lieutenant Conolly was taken to Sirohi and the mutineers of Erinpura dispersed, one party proceeding towards Delhi and the other towards Aua in Marwar to join the Thakur of the place who had rebelled against his overlord. On the way this party passed by Sirohi but seeing the town wall defended made no attempt to enter it.

"When the mutiny broke out, the delivery of mails at Abu ceased for a time. The Maharao thereupon posted soldiers on the road and thus enabled the mails to pass on regularly. After peace was restored, the Maharao sent the Erinpura civil residents to the Agent to the Governor-General who expressed his great satisfaction and reported the Maharao's loyalty to the Governor-General. For this good service the Maharao received a remission of half his tribute."<sup>1</sup>

The Maharao, shocked at the tragic death of his eldest son Guman Singh who being disgusted due to an incurable disease shot himself, entrusted the administration to his third son Umed Singh in 1861 though retained the dignity and honour of the office till his death in 1862 A.D. Maharao Sheo Singh founded the city of Sheoganj in 1853 A.D.

#### **Maharao Umed Singh**

Born in 1833 A.D., Umed Singh ascended the throne in 1862 and governed the State with the help of the Political Superintendent till he was finally invested with full powers

1. History of Sirohi Raj by Lala Sita Ram, p. 239-40.

on 1st September, 1865 A.D. His first act was to bring about a reconciliation with his disgruntled brothers. He introduced reforms in the administration, education and army. Separate criminal and civil courts were established in 1866, before which justice, often belated and arbitrary, was administered by officers controlled by the Diwan. In the next year, the first modern school and hospital made their appearance at Sirohi and a company of trained soldiers was also formed. In the famine of 1868 A.D., adequate measures for relief were taken. Bhils, Minas and Girasias who began to raise their heads for outlawry were brought under control. Nathu Singh, who had been pacified during the reign of the late Maharao, again revolted on the question of the grant of a village Bijua. The menace increased day after day and "scarcely a day passed when he did not commit a raid on one or other of the State villages."

Highway dacoities were committed on the main road to Ahmedabad. Consequently, the Commandant of the Erinpura Irregular Force, who was given special powers, brought the situation under control. However, the Nathu Singh's gang remained at large and though he died in 1869 A.D., his son Bharat Singh and the gang could not be subdued till 1871.

Another uprising of some consequence was made by Thakur Shardul Singh of Rewara but with the assistance of British Officers, he was arrested and imprisoned.

Maharao Umed Singh died in 1875 A.D. and was succeeded by Maharao Keshri Singh.

#### **Maharao Keshri Sing**

The Maharao was born on 20th July, 1857 at Posina. He was well versed in Hindi, Sanskrit and English language. Though formally he ascended the throne on 16th September, 1875, the celebrations were held on 24th November, 1875 on the advice of the astrologers and soon after he was invested with full powers by the British Government.

In 1876 A.D. at the age of nineteen, he was married to the daughter of Parmara Raja Jalam Singh of Danta (Gujarat) from whom the heir-apparent Maharaj Kumar Saroop Ram Singh was born in 1888 A.D. In 1884 A.D., Maharao married the daughter of Thakur Abhey Singh



of Versoda in Mahi Kanta (Gujarat) who gave birth to Maharaj Kumar Man Singh in 1887. She died four days after the delivery, the baby too, expired in the following year. In 1888 A.D., the Maharao again married the daughter of His Highness Maharana Narain Deva Sisodia of Dharampur from whom he got a son-Maharaj Kumar Lakshman Singh and three daughters. Maharaj Kumar Lakshman Singh, however, died after eight years. Maharao married a fourth time in 1896, the daughter of *Istemarardur* Raja Mangal Singh Rathor of Bhinai in Ajmer. The new Maharani begot Maharaj Kumar Narain Singh in 1903 A.D. but she died ten days after the delivery and the son after a year.

The conditions at the time of his succession, were unsatisfactory as is revealed by the following extract from the Administration Report, dated 9th May, 1876, by Col. W. Garnell, the then Political Agent :

“The rule of the Sirohi State to which the young Chief has just succeeded is not altogether a bed of roses and the extrication of the principality from the difficulties into which it gradually drifted under Kaishree Singh's father will tax the energies and capabilities of the son. So far back as the year 1855, the late Rao was found incapable of maintaining the requisite authority over his Thakors, and the finances of the State had become so much embarrassed that the British Government at the Rao's special request assumed direct management of affairs. Ten years after, in September 1865, this political superintendency was withdrawn and the management of the State restored to the Chief with the whole of the debts liquidated and a surplus of Rs. 42,000 in hand, and with peace, if not contentment, prevailing throughout the country. Since then the State has again fallen into pecuniary difficulties and at the time of the Rao's death, there was not a rupee in the treasury.”

Therefore, at the outset, the Maharao strove to improve the finances of his State. The expenditure was regulated, the tahsildars were directed to improve the condition of cultivators and immigration of cultivators and traders was encouraged. Gradually the conditions improved though they again deteriorated during the famine of 1899-1900.

He suppressed the refractory Thakur Shardul Singh of Rewara. This man, after committing numerous dacoities

and robberies, had been captured and sentenced to twelve years imprisonment in 1872, but was released on security three years later in view of his youth. He however resumed his lawless habits in 1879, and became notorious by a cruel and brutal raid on the village of Kheral, in the course of which he murdered the Thakur of that place. Shardul Singh remained at large till July, 1882, when he was captured by a joint party of Jodhpur and Sirohi *sowars* and, having been convicted of murder and dacoity, was sentenced to death, but as he was a *jagirdar* of rank, he was shot and not hanged<sup>1</sup>. The trouble-some Rajputs of Jhadoli were also brought under control.

Steps were taken to introduce reforms in various branches of the administration. The Codes and Acts of British India were modified to suit local requirements and a series of regulations and circulars issued from time to time by the ruler. The State enforced its own Limitation Act and Stamp Act in 1896. Cash rents were adopted for the first time in 1903-04 and reforms were also introduced in the fields of currency, customs, weights and measures.

At the time of Erskine wrote the gazetteer of the Sirohi State, it was ruled by the Maharao with the assistance of a Diwan. His Highness' personal staff consisted of a Private Secretary and a small clerical establishment. The Diwan, besides supervising all branches of the administration, had been in immediate charge of the Forest department since September, 1906; he was aided by Naib-Diwan, who was also responsible for the general working of the anglo-vernacular school at the capital. Other important officials, all of whom were subordinate to the Diwan, were (i) the Revenue Commissioner, who was the head of the Revenue and Finance departments, (ii) the Judicial Officer, who was also Superintendent of the Central Jail, (iii) the Customs Superintendent, and (iv) the Superintendent of Police.

From 1909 to 1916-71 the office of Diwan was designated as "*Musahib-i-Ala*" and was held by the heir apparent. The rights of Darbar vis-a-vis Jagirdars were defined by the Macpherson Committee appointed in 1920-21.

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<sup>1</sup> Rajputana Gazetteer by K.D. Erskine, p. 247.

### Administrative divisions

During the early years of this century, for administrative purposes, there were nine districts or tahsils in the State, each under an official termed Tahsildar who exercised both revenue and judicial powers within his own particular charge (subject to the general control of the Revenue Commissioner and the Judicial Officer as the case may be), but who had since 1906, in no sense, been a police officer. The nine tahsils were (i) Abu; (ii) Jhora; (iii) Khuni and Sheoganj; (iv) Magra, (v) Mandar; (vi) Pamera; (vii) Pindwara; (viii) Rohera; and (ix) Santpur and Bhakar. Each Tahsildar had two assistants (naib-tahsildars)—one for judicial, and the other for revenue work and a number of minor officers whose duties corresponded to those of Patwaris. Besides the tahsils above mentioned, there were two towns, which were treated as separate units and were outside the charge of any Tahsildar, namely; Abu Road (or Kharari), which was under a Magistrate, and Sirohi, which was under the *Kotwal*. Lastly, the Magistrate of Abu Road (an assistant to the Governor-General's Agent) and the Commandant of the 43rd Regiment at Erinpura possessed certain judicial powers at these places respectively; the former officer had jurisdiction not only in the civil station of Abu and the road leading thence to the railway station, including the bazar at Kharari, but also in the village of Anadra at the foot of the western slope of the hill.

In 1917, criminal jurisdiction over Anadra and Kharari was restored to the State.

Maharao visited England in 1909 A.D. and had been loyal to the British Government during the First World War. He leased certain lands on Mount Abu permanently to the British Government from 1st October 1917 in lieu of which the Government remitted the tribute.

In 1920 A.D. he appointed Maharaj Kumar Sarup Ram Singh to look after the State affairs. The Maharao died in 1925 A.D.

### Political Awareness

Maharao Sarup Ram Singh succeeded him in 1925. The political awareness had already been agitating the minds of the people from the neighbouring States of Gujarat and

Maharashtra then Bombay State. A *sanyasi*, named Govind set up a '*Samp-Sabha*' about 1905 A.D. whose object was to demand local self-government. The Bhils, Minas and other people residing in the hilly tracks rallied round him; intoxicating drugs and foreign articles were boycotted. He led an uprising against the Maharao but it was suppressed in 1908 A.D. In May, 1922, an uprising in Rohera tahsil against the atrocities, was raised under Motilal Tejawat. Girasias and Bhils were the main sections of the people among the agitators. This uprising proved abortive and with the assistance of Britishers it was ruthlessly crushed. It is said that even women and children were shot dead, 1,800 men were killed and 600 houses burned and razed to the ground. In 1924-25, '*Nau Pragana Mahajan Association*' rose against the repressive laws of the State. The Association succeeded in stopping some of the anti-social practices.

Some enthusiastic youths of Sirohi formed a Praja-Mandal in Bombay, in 1934 to raise their voice against the mal-administration of the State. A movement started in Sirohi under this Praja-Mandal in 1936. Gokal Bhai Bhatt was the leader of the movement.

Far reaching changes in the administrative set up were made in 1940 when a State Council was set up with the Maharao as President, the Chief Minister as Vice-President and two other members who were in charge of Home, Revenue and General Affairs. Only important matters were dealt with by the State Council, rest having been delegated to the Chief Minister, who was responsible for general supervision over all the departments. In the same year the number of tahsils was reduced from 15 to 8.

To provide opportunity for popular participation in Government, though on a limited scale, an Advisory Committee was set up on 18th April, 1942, under the Chairmanship of the Revenue Member consisting of 17 non-official and 5 official members. Of the 17 non-official representatives, 10 were returned by Tahsil Advisory Committees and Municipalities from their non-official members, five members representing the Jagirdars, *Chhutbhaias* and agriculturists were taken from a panel selected by these classes and the remaining two members were nominated by the Darbar from any class or interest, which was left unrepresented. The term of non-official members was two years. The Committee

could hold discussions and render advice to the State Council on any matter of public concern. The Committee was expanded in March, 1945 (date of election) with the addition of seven more popular representatives. The mode of election was also changed and adult franchise was introduced in the State for the first time. The elections saw emergence of women in the State's public life and two ladies were elected to the Council. The Praja Mandal did not participate in the election. Just before independence a Constitutional Committee, with seven nominated members, was set up to report on the future constitution of the State.

Maharao Sarup Singh died issueless on January 23, 1946. A 'Council of Administration' with the Chief Minister as its President, therefore, took over the administration of the State. Later, with the recognition of a minor as Maharao, the Political Agent supervised the administration. By this time the administrative machinery had fully developed and separate departments for Police, Justice, Revenue, Health, Customs, Forest, Treasury and Audit etc. were functioning in the State. The principal officers of the State were:—

1. Chief Minister and Vice-President, State Council.
2. Inspector General of Police and Home Member, State Council.
3. Revenue Member, State Council and Settlement Commissioner.
4. High Court Judge.
5. Revenue and Settlement Officer.
6. District and Sessions Judge.
7. Chief Medical Officer.
8. Chief Engineer.
9. Superintendent of Education and Head Master, Colvin High School.
10. District Magistrate, Sirohi.
11. Superintendent of Customs and Forests and Officer in Charge, District Schools.
12. Secretary, Council of State.
13. Superintendent of Police.

14. Accounts Officer.
15. Audit Officer.
16. Treasury Officer.
17. Excise Superintendent.

The posts of the Chief Minister, Inspector General of Police and A.D.C. to the Maharao were sometimes, held by highly paid Englishmen.

Kunwar Tej Singh of Mandar branch succeeded to the throne on 1st July 1946. Since the ruler was a minor (being only 2½ year old), a Regency Council was set up on 14th August, 1947 to look after the affairs of the State with Dowager Maharani as its President. Before this arrangement became effective the British Government returned Abu to Sirohi State on August 5th.

A suggestion was made in November 1947 to merge Sirohi in Gujarat on the basis that in certain areas of the State, there was majority of Gujarati-speaking population. From 1st February, 1948 it was brought under Gujarat State Agency. On 19th March, 1948 when Gujarat was merged with Bombay, the Central Government brought Sirohi under the centrally administered areas from November 8, 1948 on the basis of an agreement signed by the Maharani and on January 5th, 1949 the State was taken over by the Government of Bombay for administration on behalf of the Government of India. Meanwhile, Abhay Singh and Lakhpat Ram Singh sent memoranda to the Government of India regarding their own claims for the throne of Sirohi against Maharao Tej Singh. A Committee was set up by the Government of India on March 10th, 1949 consisting of Sir H.V. Divatia of Saurashtra and the Maharajas of Jaipur and Kota to enquire into the affair. This Committee accepted Abhay Singh as the rightful successor to Maharao Sarup Ram Singh. The Government of India accepted the recommendations and recognised Abhay Singh as the Maharao.

A new agitation brimmed meanwhile, regarding the question of merger of Sirohi State in Rajasthan or in Gujarat. The people of both these states advanced their claims. It was decided to bifurcate the State into two, and 89 villages of Delwara and Abu Road tahsils were transferred to Bombay

and the rest of the State to Rajasthan. On 26th January 1950 the Commissioner of Jodhpur took charge of the portion of the State included in Rajasthan.

The people of the area soon protested against this decision and represented to retrocede the sequestered portion. Consequently, in April, 1951 the Government of India decided to reconsider the question after General Elections and the Governments of both Rajasthan and Bombay were asked to submit their opinions after the new legislatures and Governments were formed. In September, 1952, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan convened a meeting of historians and scholars of Rajasthan and appointed a committee under the presidentship of Muni Shri Jinviyaji, Director of Rajasthan Puratatwa Mandir to collect historical, social, cultural, linguistic, economic and political material pertaining to Abu area. Booklets from various agitators expressing public opinions were in wide circulation. "Agony of Abu People" was published by the Abu Action Committee of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee and "Abu in Bombay State" by A.V. Pandya. Government as well as people were interested more because the place was a hill resort. The matter was referred to the States' Reorganisation Commission and its decisions were in favour of Rajasthan. Consequently, the area was handed over to Rajasthan on 1st November, 1956. While in Bombay State, Abu area formed a part of Banaskantha district of that State.

### ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE

The recent archaeological explorations in the valleys of Luni and Banas on the one hand and the Jawai, Mitri and Sukri on the other, have thrown some light on the antiquity of the contiguous areas of the district though not in the district itself where the operations are still in progress. Palaeolithic sites of Series I and Series II were located in the adjoining district of Pali. At Dhaneri and near it, in the river Sukri and at Sojat were found some flakes, blades and cores which seemed to belong to a microlithic industry. The Jawai, Mitri and the three Sukri rivers were explored respectively near Erinpura Road, Falna, Rani, Ranawas and Sojat Road; and also the area between Abu Road and Sarupganj; between

Jalore and Sumerpur and between Nimaj and ~~Sarupanj~~. Many tools<sup>1</sup> were found, *in situ*, in the cemented gravel at Sarupganj. However, in the absence of the details and results of these explorations, it is premature to assign the area any definite antiquity.

The archaeological remains of the dilapidated temples in the region are of particular interest and throw ample light on the contemporary period. The area appears to have been predominantly influenced by Jainism. According to Jain scriptures, there were eighteen hundred Jain temples located at Chandravati (tahsil Abu Road, about four miles from the railway station) during the chief-ministership of Vimala. Another book<sup>2</sup> refers to the existence of 444 Jain temples and 999 Siva temples at Chandravati. The recent acquisition of about four hundred stone icons from this place belonging to the 12th and 13th century A.D. alludes to the declining influence of Jainism, for, most of these sculptures represent Hindu gods e.g. Uma-Maheshwara,<sup>3</sup> Anantasayi-Vishnu etc. Some of these have inscriptions engraved on the abacus. These are not yet edited. The inscription discovered at Kusuma, dated Vikrama Samvat 693 (A.D. 636) and now kept in Jodhpur museum, records the construction of a Siva temple in a place described as the hermitage of the sage Kutsa on a hill by Satyabhata, who was the younger brother of a king. Another inscription discovered at Barbut belonging to Vikrama Samvat 1283 (1226 A.D.) records certain gifts to Santinatha by Chauhan ruler Udaisimba. From these and several other inscriptions, we may infer that the region was inhabited by Saivites Jains and Vaisnavites before the advent of Muslims in these parts.

The most celebrated Jain temples of Delwara (or Devalwara) are located at Mount Abu and require special mention as regards to the architecture. Architecturally, they represent the Indo-Aryan style of north India and are the finest specimen of the period, so far preserved. The main group consists of five temples, but only two-Vimala Vasahi and Lunavasahi represent originality. The former was built

1. Indian Archaeology—A Review, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61.
2. Updesh Saptati by Somdharma written at about V.S. 1503.
3. Indian Archaeology—A Review 1960-61, p. 66.



by Vimal Shah in eleventh century A.D. and is sacred to Adinath. The exterior of this temple has no special architectural character, all the effect being reserved for the interior. It is built almost entirely of marble and; how and wherefrom it was brought, is not precisely known. The Lunavasahi temple was built by Vastupala and Tejpala in 13th century. This too, is made entirely of marble and is dedicated to Neminatha.

The archaeologists are of the opinion that the original shrines which are of black stone, of these two temples were in existence even prior to the eleventh century and the white marble halls, cellas, and corridors were added at a later date. The earliest inscription in the Vimalavasahi temple is of 1003 A.D. while another inscription tells that Vimala built the temple in 1032 A.D. The other inscriptions are of 1144 A.D. (one); of 1145 A.D. (one); of 1146 A.D. (five); of 1150 A.D. (two); of 1156 A.D. (six); of 1170 A.D. (one); of 1181 A.D. (one) and 1189 A.D. (twenty-five). These different dates, no doubt, indicate that additions and alterations were made during the subsequent period.

The amount of ornamental detail spread over these structures in the minutely carved decoration of ceilings, pillars, doorways, panels and niches is exceedingly beautiful and one only wonders at the craftsmanship employed in exploitation of marble in such a huge quantity and the wealth spent on this gigantic project. The collection of such huge mass of marble itself with the limited means of communications and transport in mediaeval ages was no mean achievement.

Both the temples have the usual quadrangular arrangements. The temple of Vimalshah consists of a shrine containing a large brazen image of Adinath with jewelled eyes and wearing a necklace. In front of it is a platform, the greater part of which and that of the court are covered with *mandaps* or portico supported by 48 pillars. The eight central pillars are so arranged as to form an octagon, holding up a dome, which together with its circular rims and richly carved pendant, forms the most striking and beautiful feature of the entire composition. The cellas between the corridors and the exterior walls of the quadrangles, have the images of *tirthankaras*. The temple of Vastupala and Tejapala has similar plan of architecture with minor differences. In the words of Tod, "the design and execution of this shrine and

all its accessories are on the model of the preceding, which, however, as a whole, it surpasses. It has more simple majesty, the fluted columns sustaining the *mandap* are loftier, and the vaulted interior is fully equal to the other in richness of sculpture, and superior to it in execution, which is more free and in finer taste." Here the dome stands on eight pillars and is a magnificent piece of work. Fergusson says, "It is finished with a delicacy of detail and appropriateness of ornament which is probably unsurpassed by any similar example to be found anywhere else. Those introduced by the Gothic architects in Henry the Seventh's chapel at Westminster, or at Oxford, are coarse and clumsy in comparison."

However, two defects are immediately and invariably visible to the visitors—the low-roofed corridors with heavy pillars and the stereotyped images of *tirthankaras* in the cellas having glittering eyes which exasperate their patience in having a second look at them. Percy Brown remarks that "several of the ordinary accepted principles of the building art have been disregarded in its composition, the structural properties being obscured by the exuberance of the decoration."<sup>1</sup>

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1. Indian Architecture by Percy Brown, p. 121.

## APPENDIX A

TREATY between the HONOURABLE THE ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY AND RAO SHEO SING, REGENT OF SEROHI, concluded by CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SPEIRS, AGENT AT SEROHI, on the part of the HONOURABLE COMPANY by order of MAJOR-GENERAL SIR DAVID OCHTERLONY, BARONET, G. C. B., PRESIDENT at MALWA and RAJPOOTANA, in virtue of full powers granted by the RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT, LORD AMHERST, GOVERNOR-GENERAL in COUNCIL, and on his own part by RAO SHEO SING, REGENT of SEROHI,-1823.

Whereas at this time Rao Sheo Sing, the Regent of Serohi and representative of the rulers of that principality, has solicited that the protection of the British Government may be extended to his country, and the British Government has satisfied itself that the State of Serohi is not politically dependent on any of the other Princes or Chiefs of Rajpootana, the request of the Rao has been complied with, and the following Articles have been agreed upon as a lasting engagement to define the relations between the parties, and to determine the terms and conditions of the alliance which will be adhered to by both governments as long as the sun and the moon shall endure.

### ARTICLE 1.

The British Government consents to take under its protection, and to receive amongst the number of its dependent and tributary States, the chiefship and territory of Serohi.

### ARTICLE 2.

The Regent Rao Sheo Sing on his own behalf, and in the name of the Rao, his heirs and successors, hereby acknowledges the supremacy of the British Government, and engages to discharge with fidelity the duties of allegiance,

and to observe punctually the other conditions detailed in this engagement.

### ARTICLE 3.

The Rao of Serohi will not form or maintain connections with any other States or Chiefs. He will not commit aggression on any one. If by accident disputes arise with a neighbour they shall be submitted to the arbitration and decision of the British Government. That Government undertakes also to arbitrate and adjust any claims which may be possessed or advanced by other States upon Serohi or *vice-versa*, whether for lands, service, money, contributions, or otherwise.

### ARTICLE 4.

The jurisdiction of the British Government shall not be introduced into the territories of Serohi, but the rulers thereof shall at all times attend to the advice of the officer of the British Government in the administration of their affairs, and act in conformity thereto.

### ARTICLE 5.

The territory of Serohi having at this time become a perfect desert, in consequence of intestine divisions, the disorderly conduct of the evil-disposed portion of its inhabitants, and the incursions of predatory tribes, the Regent hereby expressly and specially engages to follow the counsel of the British authority in all his proceedings for the restoration of the prosperity of the country and the introduction of good order and regularity. The Regent likewise promises that he will use his most strenuous exertions, both now and hereafter, for the improvement of the country, the suppression of robbery and theft, and the due and efficient administration of justice to all his subjects.

### ARTICLE 6.

If any of the Sirdars and Thakoors of Serohi shall commit offences or be guilty of disobedience, the same shall be punished by fine or confiscation of lands, or such other infliction as may be in each case determined on, in concert and concurrence with the Officers of the British Government.

## ARTICLE 7.

All classes in Serohi, nobles and peasants, having with one voice declared that Rao Oodebaun, the former ruler, was justly deposed and thrown into confinement, with the approbation of all the Sirdars and Thakoors, on account of his tyranny and oppression to his subjects, and the Rao Sheo Sing being by all parties admitted to be the proper successor, the British Government will recognise the Rao Sheo Sing as Regent of the State during the time of his natural life, but after his decease, should there be any lawful heirs of Rao Oodebaun, they will succeed to the principality.

## ARTICLE 8.

The State of Serohi shall pay such tribute to the British Government to defray the expenses incurred by undertaking its protection as may be determined on, at the expiration of three years from the date of this engagement provided, however, that the amount thereof shall not, exceed three-eighths or six annas of the annual revenues of the country.

## ARTICLE 9.

With the view to the encouragement of trade and the promotion of the general welfare of the community it shall be competent to the Officers of the British Government to recommend such rates of transit duties and regulations for the collection of customs within the limits of the Serohi territory as may on further experience be judged expedient, and to interfere from time to time to enforce or amend the same.

## ARTICLE 10.

When any detachment of British troops shall be employed in or near Serohi the Rao will, in the due discharge of his duty to the British Government provide the same with all the needful supplies without charging any duty thereon. The Commanding Officer of such force will, on his part, use his best endeavours for the protection from injury of the crops and cornfields; and should it meet the views of the British Government to canton a force in Serohi it shall be optional with it to do so, and no dissatisfaction

with the arrangement will be felt on the part of the Rao. So also should it be found necessary hereafter to raise for the service of the State of Serohi a corps, to be officered and disciplined by Europeans the Rao engages to adopt that measure to the extent of his means on the recommendation of the British Government : a liberal regarding being had to the amount paid by him as tribute. The militia actually entertained by the Rao will be at all times ready to act in subordinate co-operation with the Officers of the British Government.

Done at Serohi, this 11th day of September, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

SEAL OF RAO SHEO SING

AMHERST.

Ratified by the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council, at Fort William, this 31st day of October, A.D. 1823.

GEO. SWINTON,  
*Secretary to the Government.*

## CHAPTER III

### PEOPLE

#### POPULATION

##### Total population.

The total population of the district in 1961, according to the "Census of India, Paper No. 1 of 1962" was 3,52,303 (1,80,853 males and 1,71,450 females) and the area 1,979 square miles. The distribution among the various administrative units was<sup>1</sup> as follows:—

Unit	Area in Sq. km.	Total population
District	5,177	3,52,303
Sub-Division		
Abu	3,105	2,15,466
Sirohi	2,072	1,36,837
Tahsil		
Sheoganj	896	59,065
Sirohi	1,176	77,772
Pindwara	1,121	76,740
Abu Road	896	66,720
Reodar	1,088	72,006

1. Figures for 1960-61, provisional, page 37 of Statistical Abstract Rajasthan, 1962.

### Growth of Population

The density of population for the district as a whole, is 68 persons per square kilometre. At the time of the 1951 Census the density was 56 per square kilometre and in 1941 it was 47. The density is highest in Abu Road tahsil, where it is 74.4 per square kilometre and lowest in Sheoganj tahsil, where there are 65.92 persons per square kilometre. The mean density of population for Rajasthan as a whole, is 60 persons per square kilometre. Thus it will be observed that the density in the most sparsely populated tahsil of the district, that is, Sheoganj, is higher than the density for whole of the Rajasthan.

There has been a steady growth of population in the area since 1901 Census save in the year 1921, when there was a decrease of 2,385, due perhaps, to the spread of influenza in 1917-18 in an epidemic form which took a heavy toll of life. The following table sums up the position since 1901:—

#### *Variation in population*

Year	Population	Increase(+) decrease(—)	Percentage
1901	1,32,062*	..	..
1911	1,60,229	(+)28,167	+16.40
1921	1,57,844	(—)2,385	—0.48
1931	1,83,194	(+)25,350	+15.74
1941	1,97,291	(+)14,097	+8.84
1951	2,89,791	(+)40,071	+22.92
1961	3,52,303	(+)62,512	+21.57

\*The figure of 1881 was 1,42,903 which increased to 1,90,836 in 1891 but fell to 1,54,544 in 1901 due to the famine which carried off a large chunk of population. The last mentioned figure given by Erskine in W.R.S Agency Gazetteer p.250 does not tally with the one given by the Census Department in 1951 Census Hand Book of the district.



Consequent upon the reorganisation of the States in 1956, the Abu region having an area of 303.8 sq. miles and a population of 52,429, was merged with the district increasing its population from 2,37,362 to 2,89,791. Thus the population of the district increased by 21.57 per cent during the decade. The increase in the population of Rajasthan was 26.20 per cent during this period and that of the country 21.50 per cent. It will thus appear that the increase in the district population has been higher than that of the country as a whole.

### **Emigration and Immigration**

According to 1961 Census, of a total population of 3,52,303, 89.4 per cent or 3,14,911 persons (1,69,104 males and 1,45,807 females) were born in the district itself. A total of 26,323 persons (6,678 males and 19,645 females) were born in other districts of Rajasthan.

The number of persons born outside Rajasthan in other parts of India was 8,748 (3,716 males and 5,032 females). More than 60 per cent namely, 5,331 (1,588 males and 3,743 females) came from Gujarat State.

Persons born outside India numbered 1,734 (1,107 males and 627 females), of whom 1,547 come from Pakistan and 35 from Nepal.

Details about the number of people born within the district, state, country, etc. are given in Appendix I at the end of the chapter.

According to 1951 Census, however, a total population of 2,27,362, 92.9 per cent or 2,20,719 persons (1,10,851 males and 1,09,868 females) were born in the district itself. A total of 13,837 persons (7,986 males and 5,851 females) were born in other districts of Rajasthan, of whom, 5,394 persons (3,176 males and 2,218 females) were born in the adjoining districts, namely; 2,279 persons in Jalore, 2,254 in Pali and 861 persons in Udaipur district. A total of 8,443 persons were born in far off districts of Rajasthan. Of these, Jaipur accounted for 239, Alwar 17, Bikaner 708, Ganganagar 70, Jodhpur 7,022, Barmer 219, Jaisalmer 57, Chittorgarh 41, Kota 62 and Jhalawar only for 8.

The number of persons born outside Rajasthan in other parts of India was 2,528 (1,320 males and 1,208 females). More than 50 per cent namely, 1,716 (861 males and 855 females) came from Bombay State.

Persons born outside India numbered 278 (143 males and 135 females) of whom 277 came from Pakistan and one from Nepal.

The fact that the population born within the district itself, has fallen by 3.5 per cent within the last ten years points out to the fact that more people have begun to come to the district. This is in spite of the already dense population, the density of the least populated tahsil of the district exceeds the average density of Rajasthan.

#### Urban and Rural Areas

In the census of 1951, four towns were listed in the district—Sirohi with a population of 11,956, Pindwara 6,521, Sheoganj 5,720 and Rohera with a population of 3,663. It will be noticed that Abu area did not form a part of this district in 1951 and thus two towns—Abu and Abu Road having a population of 4,439 and 12,544 respectively in 1951, were added to the district in 1956. Rohera, however, has been dropped from the list of the towns in 1961. Thus, in 1961 Census, the towns listed were: Sheoganj (9,766), Sirohi (14,451), Pindwara (7,726), Mount Abu (8,076) and Abu Road (17,728). The increase in population at Sirohi and Mount Abu is due, in a large measure, to the setting up since 1951, of several district offices and the natural gravitation of population to the district and sub-divisional headquarters. Mount Abu is also a hill resort and hence an attraction for trading class to settle down. The total urban population in 1961 was 57,747 (30,577 males and 27,170 females) as compared to 27,860 (13,835 males and 14,025 females) in 1951 (excluding the towns of Abu and Abu Road).

The variation in the number of towns in 1951 and 1961 is due to the two different criteria adopted to define the word 'town'. During the 1951 Census, it was defined as one having a municipality, a cantonment or having a population of 5,000 or above in 1941 or having any other special reason considered so by the Superintendent of Census.

As a result of this, two new villages—Pindwara and Rohera—were added in 1951 Census in the category of towns, the former due to increase in population during the decade 1941-51 and the latter, due to urban characteristics. Erin-pura which was a town in the previous census lost that status in 1951 due to abolition of cantonment. In the 1961 Census, only those places were categorised as towns which had municipalities or had a population of not less than 5,000, a density of not less than 1,000 persons per square mile and atleast three-fourth of their adult male population employed in pursuits other than agriculture. Strict adherence to this criterion resulted in reducing the number of towns in Rajasthan from 227 (1951 Census) to 145 (1961 Census).

At the time of the Census of 1951, the rural population totalled 2,09,502 or 88.3 per cent of the total population of the district. By 1961, the figure had risen to 2,94,556. The distribution of the rural population, tahsil-wise, is as follows:—

Tahsil	No. of villages <sup>1</sup>	Population
Sheoganj	68	49,299
Sirohi	83	63,321
Pindwara	98	69,014
Abu Road	86	40,916
Reodar	120	72,006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>2,94,556</b>

#### Sex Ratio

In this district, as in Rajasthan generally, males outnumber females. In the Census of 1901, the number<sup>2</sup> of

1. This is for the year 1956. The number includes uninhabited villages also. Statistical Abstract Rajasthan 1961, p. 36.
2. The sex ratio from 1901 to 1941 has been taken from Population Statistics (Provisional), 1961 Rajasthan p. 6, published by the Govt. of India, Office of the Supdt., Census Operations, Rajasthan.

females per 1,000 males was 919. It rose to 939 in the next Census but fell by one in 1921. In 1931, it again rose to 945 but again fell by one in the succeeding census. The corresponding figures for 1951 and 1961 were 973 and 948 respectively. The number has thus increased during the last 60 years. The sex ratio for Rajasthan as a whole in 1961, was 908.

In the urban areas, according to the Census<sup>1</sup> of 1951, the females were 1,014 per 1,000 males as compared to 968 in the rural areas. Again, the females ratio in non-agricultural class was higher<sup>2</sup> (being 1,037 per 1,000 males) than in the agricultural class (being 920 per 1,000 males.) Amongst the economically active and semi-active population of the agricultural class, the female ratio per 1,000 males is 223 and 2,619 respectively. The corresponding figure (per 1,000 males) for the inactive or non-earning population was 1,351. Similar is the case among non-agricultural classes. Among the economically active population of this category, the number of females is almost insignificant, being only 179 per 1,000 males; while among the earning dependents it was as high as 1,706 per 1,000 males. Amongst non-earning dependents it is 1,883 per 1,000 males.

In 1951, Sirohi district stood fourth<sup>3</sup> in Rajasthan according to the preponderance of females.

### Age

In the 1951 Census, it was found that infants below one year of age formed 3.65 per cent of the total population, children aged one to four years formed 10.73 per cent, those aged five to 14, formed 26.43 per cent, persons aged 15 to 34 29.76 per cent, those aged 35 to 54 18.89 per cent and persons aged 55 and over formed 10.54 per cent.

The age return is not very reliable, for very few people in the villages know their exact age. However, the age returns are not altogether useless as in any large population errors, due to over-statement and under-statement, tend to cancel out.

1. District Census Handbook 1951, Sirohi, p. 1.
2. Ibid. pp. 27-28.
3. Population Statistics (Provisional), 1961 Rajasthan.

### Marital Status

During the Census of 1961, of the total population of the district, 45.89 per cent were found to be married. 47.3 per cent were found unmarried, 6.64 per cent were either widowers or widows, 0.13 per cent were living separate from their husbands or wives, as the case may be, and in respect of 0.04 per cent information about their marital status, was not recorded.

No person below the age of 9 has been recorded as married at this Census. In the age group 10-14 years, 1,596 males and 4,596 females were married. They constituted 1.75 per cent of the population and 4.17 per cent of the boys and girls in the age group 0-14 years. Thus, child marriage has almost disappeared from the district. The married males of all ages form 43.16 per cent of the total male population of the district while the married females form 48.77 per cent of the female population. This is only to be expected as the age at marriage is lower in case of a woman than for a man. Widowers form 4.23 of the male population while widows form 9.19 per cent of the female population.

### Displaced Persons

A total of 256 persons (119 males and 137 females) migrated to this district.

### LANGUAGE

The principal language of the district is Marwari which is a dialect of Rajasthani. According to 1951 Census, it was spoken by 2,17,647 persons or 92 per cent of the population whereas Rajasthani including all the dialects was spoken by 2,18,033. Hindi was given as their mother tongue by 1,859 and Urdu by only 216 persons. Bhili including Girasia, was spoken by 16,089, Gujarati by 665, Marathi by 5, Punjabi by 82 and Sindhi by 356. It must however, be kept in mind that at the time of 1951 Census, Abu area was in Bombay State and this part being on Gujarat border, has a fair number of Gujarati speaking persons.

Bhili is an admixture of Rajasthani and Gujarati.

According to the Census of 1961, of the various languages spoken in the district, Marwari, Hindi, Rajasthani, Khariboli, Gujarati, Urdu, Bhili, Sindhi and the Punjabi languages together account for 99.4 per cent of the population. The number of persons whose mother tongue is Marwari form 69.57 per cent of the population. Hindi is the

next important language. As many as 19.51 per cent of the population of the district, has Hindi as their mother tongue. Rajasthani occupies the next place, the number of Rajasthani speakers being 3.67 per cent of the population. Khariboli and Gujarati languages respectively account for 3.10 and 1.71 per cent of the population. Urdu, Bhili, Sindhi and Punjabi languages respectively account for 0.92, 0.35, 0.28 and 0.28 per cent of the population.

### RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL GROUPS

#### Religious Communities

The bulk of the population (93.5 per cent) consist of Hindus, their total number at the time of the 1951 Census including Animists, being 2,22,121 (1,12,370 males and 1,09,751 females). In the same year, Jains numbered 11,364 (5,831 males and 5,533 females) and formed 4.7 per cent of the population and Muslims 3,821 (2,073 males and 1,748 females) or 1.6 per cent. There were 36 Zoroastrians (15 males and 21 females), 18 Sikhs (9 males and 9 females) and only two Christians.

In 1961, however the Hindu population fell to 92.41 per cent. Their total number being 3,25,594 (1,67,943 males and 1,57,651 females). In the same year Jains numbered 17,340 (8,052 males and 9,288 females) and formed 4.92 per cent of the population and Muslims 8,388 (4,295 males and 4,093 females) or 2.38 per cent. There were 808 Christians (450 males and 358 females) and 173 Sikhs (113 males and 60 females).

This will indicate some fall in Hindu population but quite appreciable rise in Jain, Muslim and Christian population. The most important reason appears to be the inclusion of the Abu taluqa in the district at the time of 1961 Census.

It will be useful to compare these figures with 1901 Census. In that Census, 72.7 per cent of the people were Hindus, 11.7 Animists, 11.1 Jains, and 3.8 Musalmans; Christians numbered 624, Parsi 140, Sikhs 100 and Brahmos and Jews had one representative each. The Animists were either Bhils or Girasias.

*Hindus*—Among the Hindus, Saivas or those who regard Siva as supreme, are most numerous. The tutelary deity of the Deora Rajputs is Saraneshwar, a form of Siva. The Bhils, Girasias and Minas worship Devi and Mataji. The Chauhan warrior-saint, Gogaji, is much respected as a protector from the bites of the snakes, and his effigy on horseback or in the form of a cobra is worshipped.

*Jains*—The two sects of Jains are the Digambaras and the Svetambaras. The preachers of the former are nude and assert that woman cannot attain salvation, and the preachers of the latter who wear white garment, hold the opposite view regarding women. In this area, the great majority of Jains are Svetambaras. Almost all the Oswal group of the Mahajan community are Jains. The Jain temples are in large numbers, scattered all over the district, those at Abu being the most famous.

*Muslims*—Among the Muslims, the great majority are Sunnis. There are a few Shias, mostly traders from Gujarat.

*Christians*—The 1951 Census records only two Christians in the district but after the inclusion of Abu area in 1956 in the district, this figure must have risen fairly high. There are quite a few churches at Abu.

### Social Groups

The old, time-honoured social classification, based largely on traditional occupations and in some cases, on considerations of religion, is still fairly rigid, especially in the rural areas. This is due to the fact that educational facilities, means of communication and industrialization—all of which help to break down social barriers, have not yet been properly developed. Thus there are several distinct social groups in the district, the lines of cleavage between which are more clearly marked than in areas where the impact of modern civilization has been felt to a greater degree.

A new factor of recent origin in regard to social classification, has been the division of the population into backward and non-backward classes for the purpose of rendering special assistance to the former group. Thus the Rajasthan Government provisionally determined, for the guidance of the 1951 Census workers, 19 castes or classes

as being non-backward, namely; the Bohra, Brahman, Chakar, Charan, Dangi, Daroga, Darji, Dhakad, Kayasth, Khati, Mahajan, Mali, Mughal Pathan, Purohit, Rajput, Sayed, Sheikh and Sutar classes. It does not automatically follow that all the remaining castes or classes are backward. What this determination meant was that these classes are without doubt, non-backward. The remaining castes or classes consist of backward as well as marginal classes. The strength of such non-backward classes in the district at the time of the Census of 1951, was 76,448 persons (36,834 males and 39,614 females). But these figures are misleading in the sense that they include the figures of those persons only who returned any one of the 19 names mentioned in the list as their caste or class in response to the Census enumerator's question regarding social group. Those who returned any other name which may be a synonym or a sectional name of any of the above caste or classes, was not treated as belonging to the non-backward class, e.g., Joshi, Acharya, Purohit etc. The figures, therefore, merely indicate the minimum strength of the 19 classes.

Of the 44 castes of the Rajasthan declared as Scheduled under article 341 of the Constitution, a majority are represented in the population of the district. In 1951, the total number of persons of these castes was 43,452 (25,177 males and 18,275 females). These figures are also defective in that they do not contain the figures of those persons who returned synonymous or sectional names of any of the castes mentioned above e.g., Harijan, Jatar and Tadar instead of Chamar, etc. According to 1961 Census, the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes was 67,113 (34,792 males and 32,321 females) and those belonging to Scheduled Tribes was 74,087 (38,383 males and 35,704 females).

Sixty castes or classes were similarly declared by the Rajasthan Government to be backward for the purpose of receiving educational facilities. Their strength in 1951 was 46,809 (25,018 males and 21,791 females).

Other caste or clan names found in the Census slips in response to the question regarding social groups were nearly 180 in number. Some of them are really synonyms or sectional names of one or more of the castes mentioned in the list referred to above but they were grouped with the backward classes for Census purposes.



The main social groups, backward and non-backward, found in the district are:—

*Mahajans*—Most of the Mahajans or Banias, are Jains. Oswal and Porwal sub-divisions of Mahajans are in majority in the district. The Oswals do not eat onions and garlic and circumbulate only four times round the fire during the marriage ceremony. They do not have matrimonial alliances with *Sarawagis*, nor are they strict in observance of the rules regarding taking of meals before sun set.

The origin of Porwals is sometimes traced from the Rajputs of Patan in Gujarat who embraced Jainism about 800 years ago and they still attach the suffixes like Panwar, Solanki etc. These are usually money-lenders. Unlike other communities, birth of a daughter in Porwal family is rejoiced, for, it is the father of the girl who gets big dowry in the marriage. But there are a few families among these who observe great austerity in marriages and demand no dowry at all. They do not have matrimonial alliances with Oswals.

*Rajputs*—The Rajputs are the traditional fighting, landowning and ruling caste. They are proud of their war-like reputation and their ancestry and are still punctilious on points of etiquette. They worship the shield, the sword, the dagger and the horse. In former times the Rajputs were usually *bhumias* or jagirdars. The majority of them are cultivators now.

Chauhans, mainly of Deora sect, are most numerous, followed by Rathores. A few families of Sisodias are also met with.

*Bhils*—Bhils are the largest aboriginal tribes of Rajasthan and are perhaps the oldest inhabitants of this land. They are probably the pygmies referred to by Ktesias (400 B.C.) and the Phyllitae of Ptolemy (150 A.D.). Col. James Tod calls them as *Vana-putras* or sons of the forest. Herbert Risley puts them racially with the Dravidian type but the modern researchers have different views. Legend attaches their origin to god Mahadeva, who, it is said, while sick and unhappy, reclining in a forest fell a prey to a beautiful woman and the result of the union was creation of numerous progeny. One of them ugly and vicious, enraged Mahadeva

by slaying his father's bull and was expelled from the habitation of men. The Bhils descended from him.

Another legend in *Bhagwat Purana* mentions a king Vana ruling his subjects with an iron hand. He compelled worship of himself and prohibited *Yajnas* and other religious rituals. Thus he enraged the sages who killed him by chanting *mantras*. He had no successor and the throne being vacant, the sages created a dwarf from the corpse of Vana. This was Nishad, whose descendents inhabited the mountains and forests. Bhils are said to have descended from him.

Once a plundering and menacing tribe, they have been gradually settling as agriculturists and those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits are labourers. They have settled in large number in Abu Road and Pindwara tahsils. With the active assistance of the Government, they have been able to avail the educational, social and economic benefits during the First and Second Five Year Plans.

The members of the Bhagat sect of the Bhils do not smoke and abstain from liquor. Almost every Bhil worships *Mataji (Kali)* and their other deities are Mahadeva, Hanuman and Bhairon. They show much respect to Pabuji, a Rathore hero.

*Girasias*—Allied to the Bhils, but ranking just above them in the social scale, are the Girasias, the principal inhabitants of the Bhakar and also numerous in the Santpur and Pindwara areas. According to Sir John Malcolm, the term "Girasias" denotes "chiefs who were driven from their possessions by invaders, and established and maintained a claim to a share of the revenue upon the ground of their power to disturb or prevent its collection." The word is derived from the Sanskrit *Giras* which signified a mouthful, and "has been metaphorically applied to designate the small share of the produce of a country which these plunderers claim". Another interpretation is that the name Girasias is derived from the Sanskrit words *Giri* (mountain) and *Ashrit* (depending) because they reside in mountains. The Girasias are said to have come from former Mewar State many centuries ago, and as they still have their internal *gots* or circles of affinity (such as Paramara, Chauhan, Rathore, etc.), upon the model of a regular clan, it may perhaps be taken that they are the descendants of Rajputs by Bhil

women. It is probable that when the Deora Chauhans, subjugated the Paramaras about six hundred years ago, they were unwilling to dispossess the Girasias of their land, or were possibly, unable to do so on account of the secure position in the mountain fastnesses of the Aravallis which the Girasias held. Up to about 1867 little, if anything, was known of the Bhakar or its inhabitants; the latter were said to be jealous of intrusion, and wonderful tales were told of their strength, lawlessness, etc. No *Raj* official ever ventured inside the tract, and the people paid no dues, revenue or tribute. In time, however, the Girasias spread westwards, and their huts are to be found among the remains which mark the site of the famous but now almost forgotten city of Chandravati. Remaining but two or three years in one place, they were the rude pioneers of civilisation clearing the wilder and more unhealthy regions of wood and forest, bringing the land into use, and preparing it for the occupation at a later date, of the more advanced races. At the present time, they are cultivators, herdsmen and guides, and, though formerly great plunderers, seldom give any trouble; their dwellings are scattered about on the slopes of hills, over which and in the richer valleys, their irregular fields extend. As agriculturists, they are on par with the Bhils and, like the latter, used to practise the *walar* system of cultivation. They respect the cow and never take the life of any animal with a white coat, but will eat the meat of a black sheep or goat.<sup>1</sup>

The Girasias are governed by their own panchayat system; the Panchas or *Patels* settle their disputes if both parties are Girasias and the case is seldom reported to the police.

Girasias worship Siva, Chamunda, Ambaji, Jogmaya, Bhairon, Hanuman, Ganpati, Indra and Sheshnag. Sitlamata, the goddess of small-pox is also propitiated as also Ghoda Dev, the protector of the village and *Blumiya*, the deity of the field.

1. Gazetteer of Sirahi State, p. 255 by Major K.D. Erskine.

*Kathodis*—The Kathodis *alias* Katkars in Abu Road tahsil, are now a recognised Scheduled Tribe. Numerically insignificant, they have received special and concerted attention of the Rajasthan Government owing to their miserable plight. The tribe does not originally belong to Rajasthan. Some 50 years ago<sup>1</sup>, it is said, their Muslim employers, the Bohras, a noted business community, impressed with their skill at *Katha-making* persuaded about 250 families to part with their parent stock of Bhils in western Khandesh district of Bombay State in search of new fortunes in the forests of Rajasthan. They were employed in the remote interior of forests abounding in *Khair* trees, the raw material for manufacturing *Katha* and have since come to be known as Kathodis or Kathodias.

Social customs of the Kathodis resemble those of the Hindus, but the dead are buried instead of being cremated. Five relatives of the deceased put rice in his mouth and a pice or rupee on his palm. After burial the spot is marked by a stone. Five days later the male members of the family get themselves shaved.

*Rebaris*—The rebaris are mostly shepherd, and some of them possess flocks and herds of their own; many are agriculturists. They eat flesh, drink wine and allow widow remarriage.

*Inter-caste Relations*—The breaking down of caste barriers is not yet a noticeable phenomenon in the area.

*Superstitious Beliefs*.—People are highly superstitious. The main superstitions centre round the interpretation of dreams, acts like sneezing and appearance of certain animals or classes of persons under given circumstances. Others include the following:

(i) People have a common belief in the quivering of the different parts of the body and their various interpretations. (ii) Certain days are auspicious while others are forbidden to start any new work. (iii) An evil eye, they believe, affects adversely the food, beautiful garments and

1. "Scheduled Tribes of Rajasthan and their welfare" p.23, published by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

the health of the children. To avoid it, they mark the forehead and cheeks of the children with black spots or *tikkis* and put a charcoal in the dish in which food is served. (iv) Uttering the names of certain villages, e. g., Mandar, Anadra, Motagam etc., bring hardship during the day. (v) Oaths of their near relatives or deities are binding.

Bhils believe in witch and witchcraft. A woman suspected as a witch used to be placed in one side of a bullock pack-sack and three dry cakes of cow-dung in the other; the sack was then thrown into water, and if the woman sank, she was not a witch. But such trials have not been held in recent years.

## SOCIAL LIFE

### Property and Inheritance

*Joint Family System.*—The industrial backwardness of this region, coupled with a general disinclination to travel far in search of employment, have had the effect of keeping the joint family together in the traditional occupation. According to 1951 Census, there were 51,106 houses in the district occupied by 54,013 households. In the rural areas 56.0 per cent of households are of medium size consisting four to six members whereas in the urban areas 25 per cent of the households comes to this category. In the same Census, it was shown that, among 1,000 households, heads of the families and their wives numbered 1,683, sons 971, daughters 702 and other relatives 645.

The joint family, as a rule, consists of parents, married sons and their wives, unmarried sons and unmarried daughters. Traditionally, the property of a deceased is equally distributed among all the sons. The jagirdar class of Rajputs however, follow a rule of primogeniture.

*Adoption.*—A Hindu who has no male issue usually adopts a son from amongst his close associates. This is called *godlena* (*god* means lap and *lena* means to receive in). This ceremony takes place in the presence of the caste people and near relatives. The adoption is confirmed by the execution of a registered deed. The adopted son enjoys all legal, social and religious rights and privileges and is subject to all the liabilities of the adoptive father like a real son.

In some cases, the priest is called and a fire sacrifice known as *dattaka havan* is performed.

### Marriage and Morals

**Polygamy.**—Polygamy is on the whole, rare but it is not uncommon among the Bhils and is resorted to if the wife remains barren, too ill to attend to house keeping or proves immoral. In order to discourage polygamy, provision was made by the Government of Rajasthan in the Service Conduct Rules prohibiting government servants to marry again in the life time of a wife and debarring those who have two wives living from entering the government service. Polygamy was made an offence by the "Special Marriage Act (Civil marriage) Act No. 43 of 1954, panel section" & "Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Act No. 25 of 1955". Polyandry is unknown in this district.

**Parda System.**—The *parda* system, which was at one time very strong among the Rajputs, the higher class Muslims and Mahajans, is disappearing, but even today Rajput and orthodox Muslim women rarely move out of their homes. Among all other communities, women move out freely but generally veil their faces in the presence of the elders and strangers. Working women, however, do not cover their faces.

**Dowry System.**—As elsewhere, the giving of dowry has been a general practice in the area and it is yet too early to estimate the effect of the recent legal ban. Among some communities such as Porwal sect of Mahajans, a daughter is considered a valuable commodity and by custom, dowry is demanded instead of given, when she is married. Among the Bhils, a fee ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 known as *dapa* is paid to the girl's father by the suitor. This fee is higher among the Girasias.

**Marital Age.**—Formerly child marriage was frequent and even now it is not uncommon to perform betrothal ceremony at a tender age. The marital age is generally 15 for the girls and 18 for the boys.

**Marriages.**—For economy, it is common practice to get all the sons or daughters whose age do not differ much, married at the same time.

It is interesting to note that among the Bhils, the proposals for the girl's hand must come from the suitor or his

relative. If the girl's father initiates the talk of betrothal, suspicions arise that there is something wrong with the girl. Betrothals can be cancelled if *dapa* i.e. a marriage fee, is not paid or the groom contracts some incurable malady.

Among the Girasias, elopement in the fairs is a practice. If the boy happens to be in relation with the girl's family, he usually visits her and gets her consent before *Gaur*, the annual fair falling on *Poornima*, the full moon of *Chaitra*. During the rush and pandemonium of the fair, he takes her palm into his and forces his way out alongwith his friends. The father of the girl can visualise who it was that took his daughter away. Soliciting the arbitration of the *Patel* of his village, he visits the *Patel* of the boy's village. The boy's father is then called and is directed to pay the marriage fee *dapa* to the girl's father. If the girl has gone to some other family not related to or acquainted with the girl's father, the fees he receives goes up and if the other side finds itself unable to pay the high fee, the girl is led back to her parental home, her father accepting a nominal fine.

The marriage is solemnized at noon in the presence of the *Bhopas* a priestly class among the Girasias.

*Widow Re-marriage.*—Widow re-marriage is rare and the orthodox sections of the society frown at such ideas. Among the Bhils, however, a widow's re-marriage is common and known as *Natra* or *Karewa*. The funeral of the deceased husband over, the widow is asked about her future. Desirous of remarriage, she would wish to return to her father's house. If the deceased is survived by a younger brother, he, in most cases, would make it a point of honour and family prestige and would not allow her to go to any other man's house.

*Divorce.*—Barrenness and impotency rather than quarrel are the causes of divorce. But these are very rare. Among the Bhils, a man desirous of divorcing his wife, loudly proclaims his intentions before some of his tribesmen and resorts to a facile fashion of tearing her *odhani* breadthwise or his own turban and hands it over to the wife as a symbol of divorce.

*Position of Women.*—The position of women has remained practically unchanged. The provision of educational

facilities for girls is bringing about a welcome change in the younger generation but the results will not be visible for some time. At present, few women belonging to the upper and middle classes, are striking out on their own or are economically independent. Among the working classes, women have all along worked alongside their men and in a very real sense, enjoy more freedom than their upper class sisters. More often than not, these working women are more laborious than their husbands. Nevertheless, they too occupy a subordinate position in the social scale.

*Drinking and Drug-taking*—Most castes abstain from liquor. The Rajputs, Bhils, and Giras as are the only castes fond of drinking and their quarrels, it is said, begin and end in drunken bout. Very few people indulge in *bhang* and *ganja*. Among the Rajputs, the taking of opium is still common though not to the former extent. Smoking of tobacco in one form or other, is very common.

### HOME LIFE

*Houses and Households*.—The total number of occupied houses in the district at the time of the Census of 1951 was 51,106 i.e., about 30 houses per square mile. The average number of persons living in a house was 4.6. These 51,106 houses were occupied by 54,013 households. The sizes of households varied to a great extent, from one member to more than ten. In the rural areas, 56.0 per cent of the households were of medium size consisting of four to six members. In the urban areas, 25.0 per cent of the households were of medium size. There were very few households of very large size (10 members or more) in the urban areas and these formed only 1.0 per cent in the rural areas. The percentage of the smallest households in the rural and urban areas was 40 and 50 respectively.

At the time of 1961 Census, however, the total number of occupied houses in the district was 66,486 i.e. about 33 houses per square mile. The average number of persons living in a house was 5.3. These 66,486 houses were occupied by 73,320 households. The size of a household varied to a great extent, from one member to more than ten. In the rural areas, 48.14 per cent of the households were of medium size consisting of four to six members. In the urban areas 19.2 per cent of the households were of medium size.



The average number of persons living in a house has increased from 4.6 to 5.3 which means that house construction activity has not kept pace with the growth of population.

—In the towns, the houses are built of stones and burnt bricks but have a displeasing appearance due to unplanned construction, but those built under the supervision of engineers are better. Most of these are double-storeyed. The houses in the rural areas are made of mud with roofs of rough tiles. In Abu Road the older houses are low roofed and shut almost on all sides.

The Bhils are prone to live in hamlets known as *pals*, each hut standing on a small knoll in the midst of its patch of cultivated land. The grains are stored in *kotlas* hard-mud jars of various sizes, sometimes six feet high.

In the Bhula and Valoria tract and wild parts, the dwellings of Girasias consist of a frame work of wood, the walls being made of split bamboos and grass and roofs of broad flat tiles.

*Furniture.*—Except for string cots, there is practically no furniture in the average village home. Sometimes in the mud huts, there are shelves built into the walls for the storage of articles and an alcove for housing the deity. In the towns, in upper middle class houses, tables and chairs make an appearance and the homes of the well-to-do are furnished in much the same manner as those of their counter-parts elsewhere. Framed photographs hanging on the walls of the parlour or drawing rooms, is a common feature.

*Dress.*—The dress of the adult Hindu male consists of four articles—a *dhoti* or *potia*, *angarkha*, *safa* (turban) and *juti* (shoes). The superiority and inferiority of these articles depend upon the social and economic status. Among the educated classes, the *dhotis* and *angarkha* are gradually being replaced by trousers and shirts. *Dhoti* and shirts are still very common. The *safas* are either striped or printed.

The clothes of the majority of the people in the are made of white cotton cloth called *gajia*. A Bhil (male) can be easily recognised by a rag round his head, his hair either partly plaited and fastened with a wooden comb or

allowed to fall in unkempt masses over his shoulders. The richer Bhils are well dressed in *pagri* and *dhoti* and a short jacket (*angarkha*) and carry a piece of cloth which is used as *kamarband* or belt. Carrying a blanket in winter is not unusual. Some of them may be seen carrying swords or guns but their traditional weapons are bows and arrows made entirely of bamboo. They also keep a small mirror in one of their button holes.

The dress of the adult Hindu female consists of *ghaghara*, *kanchli* and *orna*. Some females wear sarees also. *Ghaghara* is made of *chhint* (specially of Jodhpuri). *Orna* is prepared mostly from *lalchor* (red cloth). Bhil and Girasia women wear *jhulki* (shirt) on the waist in place of *kanchli*. *Phetia* (petticoat) is worn under the *ghaghara*.

The dress of a Muslim adult is not different from that of Hindu except that in some part of the district they wear *churidar payjama*.

In rural areas, Bohra (Muslim traders) ladies wear trousers, sometimes with narrow openings and then wear *ghaghara* over it. On the upper part of the body, they wear *kanchli* and a loose *kurti* but the *orni* is the same as that of Hindus.

Widows of all classes wear black *orna* and *kanchli* or *kurti* and red *ghaghara*.

European dress is to be seen only in the towns and among government servants generally.

**Ornaments.**—Men usually wear no ornaments. However ornaments meant for men are *horkis* and chains on neck, *jhela*, *lung* and *marki* on ear and rings on fingers and ankles.

The ornaments popular among the poor women are: *bor* to adorn forehead, *balli* or *jela* for ears, *varli* and *karki* round the neck; *Kunta* and *fini* used as nose rings, *kunta* being larger in size than *fini*; *gajra*, *katria*, *adkania* and ivory *chuda* to adorn arms; *karla* and *tora* round the legs and a pair of *polris* on toes.

The richer class use: *bor*, *veni*, clips, *phools*, *dorla* to adorn hair and forehead, *toti* and *ser* for ears, *kunta*, *kunti*, and *fini* as nose rings *vajar-tikdi*, *dora*, *har*, *kantli* as necklaces,

*bajuband*, *kada*, *panchi*, *gokhuru*, glass bangles, ivory *chuda*, *muthia*, *hathpan* for arms and wrists and *kada*, *karla*, *ramjor*, *todi*, to adorn the legs.

Most of the ornaments are made of silver though gold is used in some cases by those who can afford it. In old days, customs prevented the lower classes to wear gold ornaments.

**Food.**—The food of cultivators, artisans, labourers in rural as well as in urban areas, is the same. They use coarse grain such as maize, *bajra*, *jowar*, *kura*, barley, *gujji*, gram and *mung* for thick cakes. The cake is called *jhati bati* or *sogra* if flour of only one of these grains is used, other mixture is known as *bharia* or *dher-ka-scgra*. These are eaten with *chhach*, *dal* uncooked onions or chillies. In rural areas people also eat *kheech* prepared from *dalia* of barley or wheat, and *ghat* from maize. *Kheech* and *ghat* are taken along with onions and *chhach*.

The richer classes use wheat as staple food and spread *ghee* on the cakes. *Khichari* and *dal-bhat* are commonly used by Mahajans in urban area. Some people take *papar* and *khichia* at the end of meals. Milk, sugar and *gur* are in common use. Sometimes *dhokras* prepared from *bajra*, maize and pulses are taken in winter while *dhokari* prepared from wheat and pulses are taken in summer.

The vegetables used are raddish, brinjals, *methi*, carrot, onion, potatoes, ladyfinger, cauliflower, *tindsi*, *sua-palak*, *chandevaria* etc. The Reodar and Abu area where tomatoes are grown in abundance in the river beds, it is very commonly used. For poorer classes these dishes are luxurious to be had only on special occasions. Sometimes people use jungle products such as *kuptia*, *sangri* and pods of babool as vegetables.

On special occasions like marriage or a feast, *lapsi* (a preparation from *gur*, *ghee* and *dalia* of wh at) and *churma* (a preparation from *bati* or *rota*, *gur* and *ghee*) are very common. Coconut and *gur* is the most favourite sweet dish of Bhils and Girasias.

In Abu Road and Abu, it is a common practice to mix *gur* or sugar in the vegetable dish, perhaps a taste borrowed from Gujaratis.

Watermelons are eaten fresh, the seeds are dried, ground and mixed with flour for food. Other fruits include *girni* or *khirni*, *bor* (small plum) mulberry, mangoes and *jamun*.

Two principal meals mid-day and evening are taken. Some people also take morning breakfast which consist of *khakras* (dried cakes) and milk or the food left over from the previous night or *ghat* with *chhach*; biscuits, tea etc. are also prevalent among educated people.

The morning meal *Bepar* as well as the evening meal called *Byalu* consist of *chapaties*, *sogras* etc. A cup of tea at any hour, is welcome among all the classes.

The non-vegetarian dish include meat, fish and eggs. There is no authorised slaughter house in the district; the number of unauthorised ones in 1958-59 was 19 (17 at Sirohi, one at Abu Road and one at Mount Abu) where 8,237 animals (8,219 goats and 18 sheeps) were slaughtered. The corresponding figures for 1959-60 was 17( 6 at Sirohi, 7 at Abu Road and 4 at Mount Abu) where 8,500 animals (all goats) were slaughtered. In season, about a maund of fish is consumed in the district—mainly by the seasonal visitors at Mount Abu. The poultry is maintained by the individuals according to one's requirements. At Mount Abu and Abu Road, restaurants also cater for the needs of the consumers of eggs.

The sources of water are wells, rivers and ponds, some of these sources are contaminated but the only precaution taken is to strain out the mud and dirt through a cloth. In some places like Rohera, there is heavy incidence of guinea-worm.

*Daily Life*—In the towns, and among the artisan and business classes generally, the daily routine is the same as in urban areas elsewhere. The life of the agriculturist is rather busy in the double cropped areas and they find little time for rest. The women labourers generally go very early to their work in the fields or jungles for cutting grass or woods and sell them in the market by noon. Other women spend the mornings at the grind stone. Since water is not a problem and small *nullahs* flow throughout the year, bathing and washing the cloth is a daily routine. The Jains often go to temples before morning meals and after evening meals.

#### Communal Life

*Fairs*.—The main community fairs held are: Gautamji-ka-mela held at Chotila village in Sheoganj tahsil on *Chaitra*

*Sudi* 13, when Bhils and Minas gather there; Girasia fair at Amba on *Vaisakh Sudi* 15; Sarneshwarji fair held at Sarneshwar temple near Sirohi town on 12th day of the bright fortnight of *Bhadon*. It is a chief gathering occasion for Rebaris whose internal caste disputes are settled on this occasion.

A list of important fairs held in the district, with such details as place, date and approximate number of people taking part in the fair, is given at the end of the chapter.

*Festivals.*—The principal Hindu festivals observed here are Holi in *Phalgun* (February-March); Sitla Saptami (in honour of the small-pox goddess) in *Chaitra* (March-April); Gangor in *Chaitra*, Akha Teej in *Baisakh* (April-May) after the *rabi* harvest; Rakhi in *Shrawan* (July-August) when sisters tie charms round the wrists of their brothers; Dussehra in *Asoj* (September-October) and Diwali in *Kartik* (October-November). These festivals are celebrated in much the same manner as elsewhere.

Festivals of minor importance include—(i) Mahavir Jayanti, (ii) Samvatsari, (iii) Dawat Pujan, (iv) Nirjala Ekadashi, (v) Janamashtami, (vi) Makar Sakaranti, (vii) Basant Panchami and (viii) Maha Shivaratri.

The chief Muslim festivals are, as elsewhere, Muharram, Idul-Fitr, Idul-Zuha Shab-i-barat and Barawafat.

*Dancing.*—Dancing is more popular among females. They dance on some special occasions like marriage, Holi, Dewali etc. Men in rural areas are also fond of dancing to the tune of *Dhol* and *Nakkara*. The following are the important styles of dances:—

- (i) '*Ger*': It is displayed with sticks on the occasions of Holi.
- (ii) '*Ghumari*': On the days of fasting, people gather in the night and play *Ghumar*.
- (iii) On the day of Janamashtami *Raslila* is played in the temples with sticks.
- (iv) At the time of marriages, Dholies dance to the tune of *Dholki*. During fairs, some time Jogis

(a class of beggars) dance on *tutia* (a kind of musical instrument) and sing songs of local heroes.

Girasias have a varieties of traditional dances. The following are the important types:—

- (i) *Balar*—In this dance both the sexes take part. They move in a circle with a definite beat of drum and movement of the legs. The dancers bend down their bodies to a certain degree as they go on singing some song, which is suited to the occasion.
- (ii) *Madel*—The name of this particular dance is derived from '*Mridang*' the instrument used in place of the drum. In this dance men and women do not form one party but two separate ones. Women dance to the beat of the drum which is played on the spot and men with bamboo sticks in their hands and resting on their shoulders.
- (iii) *Khuda*—This is a dance exclusively for women. They form a circle and go on jumping while dancing. Perhaps, the name is derived from the word '*kud*' which in Hindi means to jump.
- (iv) *Gaur*—In this form of dance, people smear themselves with mud and cover their bodies with leaves of trees. They colour their eye-lids with *Geru*, and wearing the appearance of an ascetic or *Bairagi*, they go on dancing. It is thus an austere type of dance; shorn of gaudiness and colour and containing a blend of simplicity and majesty.
- (v) *Lumbkar*—This again is a dance solely performed by women; women divide themselves into two parties and stand at a distance from each other. They rush towards each other, meet in between and then return to their former positions. It is not 'running' literally, but moving quickly in a body in a measured and dignified manner and then pacing backwards in the same fashion.

*Folk Music*—The main folk musicians are the Muslim Dholis (drummers) for most of whom this is the only means of livelihood. They know scores of songs and sing at festivals and social gatherings. The instruments are harmonium, *sarang* and *dholak*.

*Folk Ballads*—*Bhopas*, followers of Pabuji, a Rathore hero who lived some 400 years ago, have composed hundreds of ballads around his heroic deeds and have evolved an interesting method of reciting them with suitable actions. Believers in the mysterious power of Pabuji invite the *Bhopas* to recite when there is sickness in the home, when some evil influence is feared or even for the sake of entertainment.

The other bardic class is that of the *charans* who recite poems about the old rulers of the land.

*Amusements*—Majority of the people cannot afford to spend on amusements, but are religious minded and like to attend *bhajan* and *kirtan* gatherings. The Jains often attend the temples to hear the sermons of preachers. Some of the Rajputs take riding exercises and go for shooting. The younger generation, have their games like *ankh-chhipani* (blindman's buff), *bathel kunda* (hockey), *guli-danda* (tip cat), hide and seek, *lattu-ka-khele* etc. For the rural adult, there are few relaxations and the monotony of their daily life is broken only by an occasional marriage or feast.

In the urban areas, cinemas, libraries and reading rooms are the means of entertainment while hockey, volley ball, foot-ball are the popular games of the students and the educated persons. A club (Sarup Club) at Sirohi and another at Mount Abu (Officers' Club) also function.

#### Impact of Social and Economic Changes

The structure of society has undergone a significant change in the past few years. In former times, the set-up was purely feudal and in the rural areas particularly, life revolved round the central figure of the Thakur or big Jagirdar, whose word was law.

The changes brought about by the establishment of district administration on the lines of the provinces of the former British India, the abolition of jagirdari, the various tenancy and land reforms and, more recently, the introduction of a new system of local self-government, have all had a powerful impact on the social set-up. The jagirdar is no longer the king-pin of local life. His authority has gone and, although he has received compensation

for being deprived of land, in most cases, he has had considerable difficulty in adapting himself to the new situation. The smaller land-owners have, in fact, been hit hardest because the compensation they have received, is necessarily small and temperamentally many of them are unfit for branching out into alternative professions.

However, while the former land-owning class is thus struggling to adjust itself, the common man has benefitted considerably. He is able to own land, his economic position has improved as a result of various measures taken under the development programme and the fact that he can now elect his own local leaders has given him a new sense of dignity. At the same time, it is to be observed that, in a backward area such as this, the changes on the surface have taken place at a faster pace than in the minds of men. Thus the villager, accustomed for centuries to looking up to his Thakur, is not yet completely prepared to regard him as a mere equal. The ex-landlords still command considerable respect and this factor provides them some relief in the process of painful re-adjustment.

Together with the landlords, their retainers and hangers-on have been affected by the recent changes and have had to seek alternative employment. A class which is experiencing hard times is the musician class and those who earned their livelihood by singing and dancing or composing ballads. These people used to depend for their livelihood, on the patronage of the jagirdars. Now that patronage has been withdrawn and, being unsuited by outlook for any other work, they are eking out an existence by performing at marriages and other festive occasions.



## List of important fairs held in Sirohi District.

S.No.	Name of the fair	Place	Tahsil	Day and month	Approximate No. of persons taking part in the fair.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Shri Jagannathji Mahadeo's fair	.. Eripura	Sheoganj	Chaitra badi 4	1,000
2.	Shri Shitalamata's fair	.. Peshwa	Pindwara	Chaitra badi 7	1,000
3.	Shri Gor's fair	.. Siyar	Abu Road	Chaitra (no day fixed)	5,000
4.	Shri Mahadeoji's fair	.. Amla	Pindwara	Chaitra sudi 9 and 10	5,000
5.	Shri Sabhugji Mahadeo's fair	.. Valoriya	Pindwara	Chaitra sudi 2	7,000
6.	Shri Gautamji's fair	.. Chotila's Pahari	Sheoganj	Chaitra sudi 13 or any day not fixed.	5,000
7.	Shri Sartanathwar Mahadeo's fair	.. Lautana	Pindwara	Chaitra sudi 15	3,000
8.	Shri Mobeshwarji Mahadeo's fair	.. Jhadoli	Sheoganj	Baisakh sudi 15	400
9.	Shri Kombeshwarji Mahadeo's fair	.. Kana Kolar and Kolar hill	..	-do-	300
10.	Shri Brahmaji's fair..	.. Besantgarh	Pindwara	-do-	200
11.	Shri Maheshwar Mahadeo's fair	.. -do-	-do-	-do-	200

Table (Contd.)

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Shri Parushramji's fair ..	..	Kojara	Pindwara	Baisakh sudi 15
13.	Shri Markundeshwarji's fair ..	..	Ajari	-do-	-do-
14.	Shri Kedarnath Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Nitara	-do-	-do-
15.	Shri Joodagji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Basa	-do-	-do-
16.	Shri Markundeshwarji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Ajari	-do-	Jeth sudi 11
17.	Shri Rishikesh Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Near Umarji	Abu Road	Bhadon sudi 11
18.	Shri Sarneshwarji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Sirohi	Sirohi	Bhadon sudi 12
19.	Shri Diwanathji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Near Nitara & Lotana	Pindwara	Kartik sudi 15
20.	Shri Bhoneshwarji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Jhadoli	Sheoganj	Kartik sudi 15
21.	Kombeshwar Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Kana Kolar's hill	Sheoganj	Magh sudi 15
22.	Shri Kedarnath Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Nitoda	Pindwara	Magh sudi 15
23.	Shri Rameshwarji's fair ..	..	Moras	-do-	-do-
24.	Shri Jaddagji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Basa	Pindwara	Magh sudi 15
25.	Shri Gapesbji's fair ..	..	Sheoganj	Sheoganj	Fagun sudi 2
26.	Shri Shankerji Mahadeo's fair ..	..	Mandar	Reodar	Fagun sudi 11
27.	Shri Bhuteshwarji's fair ..	..	Bhootgown	Sirohi	Savan badi 15
28.	Shri Maghwani's fair ..	..	Near Munghala	Abu Road	Vaishakh sudi 11





<b>M-Uttar Pradesh</b>	..	Rural	218	157	44	36	8	331	182	149
	..	Urban	472	187	32	32	..	627	440	187
	..	Un-cl.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>N-West Bengal</b>	..	Rural	25	2	3	2	1	22	21	1
	..	Urban	48	7	8	6	2	40	35	5
	..	Un-cl.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Union Territories</b>										
<b>O-Delhi</b>	..	Rural	32	14	3	..	3	29	18	11
	..	Urban	64	16	6	5	1	58	43	16
	..	Un-cl.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>P-Himachal Pradesh</b>	..	Rural	3	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
	..	Urban	8	..	..	..	..	8	8	..
	..	Un-cl.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Q-Goa, Daman &amp; Diu</b>	..	Unclassifiable	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	..
<b>B. Countries in Asia beyond India (including U.S.S.R.)</b>										
<b>A Burma</b>	..	..	1,595	496	65	44	21	1,530	1,055	476
<b>B Nepal</b>	..	..	13	..	1	1	..	12	12	..
<b>C Pakistan</b>	..	..	35	11	4	4	..	31	20	11
	..	..	1,647	485	60	39	21	1,487	1,023	464
<b>C. Countries in Europe (excluding U.S.S.R.)</b>										
<b>A United Kingdom</b>	..	..	29	25	..	..	..	29	4	25
<b>B Elsewhere</b>	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
	..	..	27	25	..	..	..	27	2	25
<b>D. Countries in Africa</b>	..	..	107	106	1	1	..	106	..	106
<b>Elsewhere</b>	..	..	107	106	1	1	..	106	..	106
<b>E. Countries in two Americas</b>										
<b>U.S.A.</b>	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
<b>F. Countries in Oceania</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>G. Born at Sea</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>H. Unclassifiable</b>	..	..	587	339	587	248	339	..	..	..

## CHAPTER IV

### AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS

Much of this district is rocky and hilly and the culturable area is consequently, somewhat limited; the soil is on the whole, excellent and water is almost everywhere to be found near the surface. The eastern valley bordering the Aravallis is the most fertile part of the district. The soil is a stiff black loam, rich with the remains of decayed plants. It retains moisture well and yields both spring and autumn crops. Immediately to the west of the Abu-Sirohi range, the earth is brown or light yellow in colour and is well suited for autumn crops provided the rains are favourable; the soil of Abu itself, is for the most part, stiff clay, formed from crumbled felspar. In the plains to the west, there are two varieties of soil namely, a yellowish grey which is fairly fertile and a light sandy soil on which only one crop a year is grown; the latter is most common in the south-west and the extreme north.

The southern and eastern parts of the district usually get a fair amount of rain while over the rest of the parts, it is scanty. This is due to the influence of Abu and Aravalli hills on the clouds driven inland by the south-west monsoon. The rainfall at Mount Abu (64.53") is much higher than at stations in the plains of the district. The average annual rainfall in the plains of the district is 25.13". It decreases from the south-east to the north-west, thus the Abu Road near the south-eastern border of the district has an annual rainfall of 33.36" while Sheoganj on the northern border gets only 19.44".

The 1951 Census Report showed that 53.3 per cent of the total population depended directly or indirectly on agriculture and animal husbandry for their means of livelihood.

According to the Surveyor General of India, the district had an area<sup>1</sup> of 12,66,000 acres (5,12,000 Hectares) in 1960-61. However, the area as recorded in the village papers, was 12,80,000 acres (5,18,000 Hectares) of which a net area of 3,75,606 acres was cultivated. Out of this net area, 33,613 or 8.94 per cent was cropped twice. In the same year, 64,058 acres, i.e., approximately 17.05 per cent of the net cropped area, was classified as current fallow.

Among other lands not available for cultivation, forests occupied 62,696 acres or 4.88 per cent of the total area of the district. A total of 4,81,368 acres was barren land, representing 37.61 per cent of the total area, and 3.08 per cent, i.e., 39,531 acres, was put to non-agricultural uses. Permanent pastures accounted for 82,204 acres or 6.42 per cent and a total of 96,639 acres was classified as "Other Fallows". Only 668 acres were shown as under miscellaneous tree crops and groves.

Culturable waste land amounted to 77,015 acres, i.e., equal to 20.50 per cent of the net cultivated area. The extent of culturable waste land has fluctuated during the period from 1955-56 to 1960-61; it touched the high mark of 51.56 per cent in 1955-56, when the total area of such land was 1,31,463 acres.

The primary reason for this fluctuation is that culturable waste land in this district, is comprised mainly of mountainous tract which are ploughed only in the years of good rainfall.

62,642 acres of culturable waste in forests and mountainous tract has been brought under cultivation during the Second Plan period. As most of this land was in isolated patches, it could not be allotted to Co-operative Societies. Usually, such lands are allotted to individuals for a period of only one year at a time under the provisions of Rajasthan Tenancy Act, and the uncertainty of allotment of the same patch of land to the same individual in the succeeding years, makes any improvement on that land, difficult.

The findings on land utilization are tabulated herewith:

<sup>1</sup> Statistical Abstract Rajasthan 1962, p. 50.

(a) Cultivated land		LAND UTILIZATION					(Acres)
Year	Total area of the district		According to Surveyor General of India*	Net ree sown	Current fallow	ee sown more than once	
	According to village papers						
1	2	3	4	5	6		
1955-56	10,91,094	Not available	2,54,924	78,913	29,862		
1956-57	12,66,444	Not available	3,07,973	1,68,525	32,696		
1957-58	12,31,918	Not available	2,89,315	95,071	32,402		
1958-59	12,79,999	12,66,000	3,37,909	67,921	37,835		
1959-60	12,78,869	12,66,000	3,86,117	37,063	50,943		
1960-61	12,79,858	12,66,000	3,75,606	64,058	33,613		
(b) Un-cultivated land							
Year	Land not available for cultivation		Other un-cultivated land excluding fallow lands				Other Fallows
	Forests	Barren Land	Land put to non-agricultural uses	Permanent pasture,	Land under misc. tree crops and groves	Culturable Waste	
1955-56	66,457	3,44,691	31,907	24,305	81	1,31,463	1,57,583
1956-57	62,941	4,84,142	35,083	38,123	457	1,19,010	53,492
1957-58	56,249	2,87,934	2,34,717	63,993	151	1,08,774	1,43,609
1958-59	65,523	2,91,466	2,39,762	79,800	325	92,961	1,13,916
1959-60	65,894	62,833	4,58,265	80,635	76	89,640	99,064
1960-61	62,696	4,81,368	39,531	82,204	686	77,015	96,639

\* Source: Statistical Abstract Rajasthan 1959, 1960 & 1961.



CLASSIFICATION OF SOWN AREA

(Acres)

Year	Total area sown	Area sown more than once	Net area sown	Total area under food crops	Total area under non-food crops
	2	3	4	5	6
1955-56	2,81,886	29,932	2,54,924	2,11,550	73,337
1956-57	3,40,569	32,596	3,07,973	2,44,948	95,621
1957-58	3,21,717	32,402	2,89,315	2,34,090	87,626
1958-59	3,75,744	37,835	3,37,909	2,77,871	87,873
1959-60	4,40,060	50,943	3,89,117	3,19,883	1,20,177
1960-61	4,09,219	33,613	3,75,606	3,06,381	1,02,838

Co-operative Farming

The first farming society was registered in July, 1959. At present there are 24 farming societies in the district. They are in the following Panchayat Samitis: One in Sirohi, one in Abu Road, three in Sheoganj, nine in Reodar and ten in Pindwara Panchayat Samiti. These societies have a total membership of 516 and hold 6,882 bighas of land.

Afforestation

The Divisional Forest Officer was created in May, 1950 and since then, efforts have been made for afforestation. At present seven plantations and six nurseries are maintained by the department in the district. These are :—

**Banas Plantation.**—It is near Banas and Rampura villages in Pindwara tahsil. The scheme was started in 1957 for plantation and creation of village forests in the areas exposed to water erosion. Since then, an additional area of 100 acres is taken each year for plantation. The plants tried are *Dhav*, *Khair*, *Palas*, *Ber*, *Anwal*, *Khejari*, *Golar*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Kumbat*.

**Wedakheda Plantation.**—It is in Sirohi tahsil on Sirohi-Sheoganj road. The scheme was taken up in 1955 for com-

mercial plantation and since then, an additional area of 100 acres is covered every year. The plants tried are: *Prosopis juliflora*, *Babool*, *Neem*, *Siris* and *Sisoo*.

*Palri Plantation*.—It is in Sheoganj tahsil near village Palri. Under this scheme, started in 1956, an area of 75 acres was taken up for commercial plantation. Since 1957, an additional area of 100 acres is taken up every year. The plants tried are: *Pongamia glabra* (*Karanj*), *Babool*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Sisoo*, *Neem*, *Siris*, *Prosopis spicigera* and *Acacia Arabica*.

*Janapur and Pindwara Plantation*.—It is in Pindwara tahsil along Sirohi-Mount Abu road. Under this scheme 100 acres were taken up in 1958 and subsequently, additional 100 acres have been taken up every year. The plants tried are: *Palas*, *Ramja*, *Babool*, *Khejari*, *Ber*, *Anwal*, *Kasia*, *Sisoo*, *Hingot*, *Karil* and *Siris*.

*Mt. Abu Plantation*.—It is in Abu Road tahsil. The work started in 1958 for rehabilitation of existing forests in 100 acres. One hundred acres are added every year. The plants tried are: *Banayan*, Silver Oak, *Sisoo*, *Shir*, *Am*, *Jamun*, *Jacaranda* and eucalyptus of various kinds.

*Abu Road Plantation*.—It is located on the road to Ambaji in Abu Road tahsil, about 2 miles 5 furlongs from Abu Road. The work started in 1958 for conservation in marginal land including N. E. S. Blocks in 100 acres and an equal area is added every year. The plants tried are *Dhau* (*Anogeissus pendula*), *Khirni* (*Mimusops indica*), *Palas* (*Butea frondosa*), *Kair* (*Capparis aphylla*), *Anwala* (*Cassia auriculata*), *Aru* (*Prunus persica*), *Karoj* (*Ulmus integrifolia*).

*Vera Plantation*.—The work started in 1960 for soil conservation in marginal land in 100 acres. It is in Sirohi tahsil. The plants tried are: *Babul* (*Acacia arabica*), *Ber* (*Zizyphus nummularia*), *Kumat* *Prosopis juliflora* and *Dhau* (*Anogeissus pendula*).

The six nurseries are at Abu Road, Mt. Abu, Sirohi, Palri, Pindwara and Banas. Of these, the first two are for plantation and creation of village forests whereas the next three are for the commercial plantation and the last

one is for the soil conservation in marginal land including N. E. S. Blocks. The various species and number of plants in these nurseries during 1960, are tabulated below:—

(No. of Plants)

Name of species	Palri	Sirohi	Pind- wara	Abu Road	Mt. Abu	Banas
1. Sisoo	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	3,000
2. Teak	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
3. Neem	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	..	5,000
4. Saria	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	..	5,000
5. Eucalyptus of various kinds	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	8,000	3,000
6. Mulbury	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
7. Neem Chancila	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000
8. Bakayan	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
9. Gulmohar	1,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	500	500
10. Jacaranda	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000
11. Abu Champa	500	500	500	500	2,000	300
12. Chir	..	..	..	..	2,000	..
13. Lal Dhav	..	..	..	..	2,000	..
14. Jamun	500	500	500	500	2,000	500
15. Mango	200	200	200	200	1,000	200
16. Silver Oak	300	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,000	1,000
17. Karanj	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	..	1,000
18. Kachanar	500	1,000	500	500	500	500
19. Imli Ingo (Guj- rati Imli)	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	500	2,000
20. Prosopis Juliflora	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	..	3,000
21. Asok	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000
22. Night Queen	200	300	300	300	300	300
23. Rose of different kinds	400	500	500	500	1,000	300
24. Bamboos	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	5,000	1,000

Under a scheme for the beautification of Mount Abu 65,570 flower plants have been planted at different sites of tourist interest. The species include rose, night jasmine, kaner, duranta, hibiscus, lantana, jacaranda, jambolana and silver oak.

The total expenditure for the development of forests during the First and Second Five Year Plans amounted to Rs. 81,745 and Rs. 4,84,712 respectively. The year-wise income and expenditure of the Forest Department is as under:—

( Rupees )

Year	Income	Expenditure		
		Plan	Non-plan	Total
1952-53	1,67,250	..	72,581	72,581
1953-54	1,82,972	5,000	80,389	85,389
1954-55	1,87,264	5,514	81,786	87,300
1955-56	2,16,003	71,231	91,639	1,62,870
1956-57	2,96,499	54,366	1,27,359	1,81,725
1957-58	5,04,598	97,256	1,45,099	2,42,355
1958-59	4,54,563	1,34,941	1,55,597	2,90,538
1959-60	5,11,873	1,79,956	1,59,100	3,39,056
1960-61	3,91,543	1,54,439	1,65,887	3,20,326

The principal targets envisaged in the Third Plan are: Commercial plantation on 2,000 acres; re-afforestation in 500 acres; maintain the grazing pastures on 1,000 acres; construction of 25 mile long road connecting forest blocks; and plantation for soil conservation on 1,500 acres.

The Forest Department has a ten year plan (1963-64 to 1972-73) which aims at scientific development of the forests of the district. During this period, boundaries of all the forest blocks and compartments will be clearly demarcated and data relating to crop and soil condition for scientific growth and management of the forest will be ascertained. Efforts will also be made to maintain forest growth on steeper and higher slopes to prevent soil erosion and to obtain adequate re-generation. For the efficacy of the plan, forest circles have been created as below:

(1) Coppice working circle—to meet the requirements of small timber, fuel and charcoal.

(2) Rehabilitation circle—to preserve and maintain forest growth and to improve degraded forests.

(3) Plantation circle—to re-stock artificially mal-treated areas with important and useful species.

(4) Grazing circle—to improve pasture land and provide for normal grazing requirements.

(5) Concessionist circle—to meet the demand of local population for small timber, fuel and agricultural implements.

(6) Salar circle—to provide a sustained supply of salar timber to meet the local demand for packing cases and toy-manufacture.

(7) Bamboo over-lapping circle—for working and development of bamboo forests.

### IRRIGATION

On an average, less than 25 per cent of the cultivated area is irrigated (23.30 per cent in 1960-61). This shows that the farmers still depend to a large extent, on rains for their agricultural operations.

*Rivers.*—The only river of any importance is the western Banas, which rising in the eastern slope of the hills behind the town of Sirohi, flows for about fifty miles in the district. Within Sirohi district it is not perennial. The bed is sandy and rocky. The other minor rivers are Sukri, Khari, Sukli, Kameri, Telriwari, Masania, Mooja, Krishnaoti, Sarbhanga, Bodi, Kapalganga, Kachnaoli, Jawali etc. Detailed description of all the rivers is available in Chapter I.

The three river irrigation projects in the district are—

*West Banas Project.*—Work on this Plan Project was started in 1958-59. It envisages construction of an earthen dam 170 chain long 12' to 16' wide and having a height of 55 feet from the lowest point in the bed at a site near Sarupganj in tahsil Pindwara. The capacity of the reservoir would be 1,510 million cubic feet, the total length of canals 56 miles and the commanded area, 12,800 acres. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 48.75 lakhs. Till 1960-61

the amount spent on the project was Rs. 14.28 lakhs. It would irrigate 5,490 hectares on completion.

*Kadambari Project.*—This project, started in 1959, envisages construction of an earthen dam 900 chains long, 12 feet wide and 40 feet high from the lowest point in the bed, across river Kadambari, two miles east of Sirohi Road in Pindwara tahsil. The live capacity of proposed reservoir would be 123 mcft., length of canal 6.7 miles, the extent of area commanded 1,231 acres on an average and the estimated cost 4.74 lakhs.

*Bithan Project.*—Estimated to cost 4.63 lakhs, this project envisages construction of an earthen dam 2310 feet long, 12' wide and 37' high from lowest point in the bed at a site 24 miles north-west of Sirohi. The gross capacity of reservoir would be 175 mcft., length of canal 5 miles and the extent of commanded area 1,580 acres. The work was started in 1959 and completed in 1962.

#### Lakes and Tanks

Except Nakhi Talao or Abu Lake, no natural lakes exist in the district. Even Nakhi Talao, though of volcanic origin, has been considerably deepened and enlarged by a dam on Anadra side.

*Ora Tank.*—This is a Plan project. The work was started in 1956-57 by building a dam 65.5 feet high and 1,716 feet long to collect rain water in a depression near village Ora in tahsil Sheoganj. It has a catchment area of 92 square miles, and storage capacity of 800 mcft. enough to irrigate 8,000 acres. The tank is seldom filled to capacity and in 1960-61, only 1,017.2 acres of land was irrigated. The length of main canal is 48,000 feet. The total estimated cost is Rs. 15.92 lakhs. On completion it is expected to irrigate an area of 8,000 acres.

It is interesting that a report was prepared in 1904 A. D. for the Ora Project. The estimated cost of the weir was Rs. 1,16,299 with a capacity of 343.35 mcft. to irrigate 3,400 acres. The aim was to store the water which flowed away down the Khari river and to use it for irrigation. However, the scheme did not materialize.

*Bhula Tank* (Pindwara tahsil).—The work of this Plan project was started in 1953-54. The length of the dam is 924 feet and the height 54 feet. The gross capacity is 160 mcft. The catchment area is 31 square miles and the commanded area 1,500 acres. As against the optimum of 1,600 acres, the actual area irrigated during 1960-61 was 900 acres. The length of the main canal is 13,992 feet. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3.86 lakhs. On completion, it will irrigate an area of 1,620 acres.

*Tokra Tank*.—The work was completed in 1960-61. The height of the dam is 57 feet whereas its length is 3,894 feet. The capacity is 192 mcft. The catchment area is 14 square miles and commanded area 2,648 acres. The area for irrigation is 2,590 whereas the actual area irrigated during the year 1960-61 is 906 acres. The canal is incomplete.

*Akhelao Tank*.—It is an old tank in Sirohi tahsil. The height of the dam is 17.6 feet and length 1,716 feet. The capacity is 38.50 mcft. with 415 acres as commanded area. The area for irrigation was 200 acres whereas the actual irrigation done during 1960-61 was 105.6 acres. The catchment area is 8 square miles. The length of canal is 2,173 feet.

*Sarupsagar Tank* (Pindwara tahsil).—The dimensions of the dam are: 32.6 feet high, 4,158 feet long. The capacity is 99.29 mcft. with a commanded area of 1,436 acres and catchment area of 11 square miles. The area for irrigation is 990 acres whereas the actual irrigation done during 1960-61 is 878 acres. The canal is 13,596 feet long and requires extension.

*Jublee and Sivera Tanks* (Pindwara tahsil).—The height of the dam is 29 feet and the length is 792 feet. The capacity is 57.60 mcft. with a commanded area of 600 acres. Heavy seepage in the bed of the tank rendered it unfit for irrigation in 1960-61. It is normally capable of irrigating 572 acres. The catchment area is 7 square miles. The length of the canal is 1,980 feet.

*Chandela Tank* (Abu Road tahsil).—The height of the dam is 32.5 feet and length 1,254 feet with a gross capacity of 33 mcft. The commanded area is 500 acres. The area for irrigation was 310 acres but actual irrigation done in 1960-61 was 168 acres.

*Mandowari Tank* (Abu Road tahsil).—The height and length of the dam are 26 feet and 528 feet respectively. The capacity is 17 mft. with a commanded area of 239 acres. The area for irrigation is 358 acres but the actual irrigation done during the year 1960-61 was 13.04 acres due to heavy seepage in the bed. The catchment area is 7 square miles.

*Kanakolar Tank* (Sheoganj tahsil).—The dimensions of the dam are: height 23.6 feet, length 4.5 ch. with a capacity of 21 mft. and a catchment area of 1.55 square miles. The area for irrigation is 220 acres whereas the actual area irrigated during the year is 53 acres.

*Sukri Weir and Palri Tank* (Sheoganj tahsil).—Sukri is a pick up weir from which inundation irrigation is done. Both Sukri and Palri are old constructions. The length of the canals are 25,872 feet and 3,300 feet respectively.

Besides the West Banas project, Ora and Bhula tanks mentioned above, the other Plan Works are Khemari, Sukli and Angore. Their estimated cost are 16 lakhs, 58 lakhs and 16 lakhs of rupees respectively and on completion, they will irrigate 5,000 acres, 8,000 acres and 5,000 acres of land respectively.

During the year 1960-61, a total of 4,019 acres of land was irrigated by the tanks.

#### Wells and Tube-wells

During the year 1955-56, the total number of wells were 7,148 whereas in 1960-61, these increased to 8,907. The tahsilwise statement is as under:—

Tahsil	1955-56 Total	1960-61			
		(Pacca	Kaccha	Total	Irriga- tion) (Acres)
Sirohi	1,719	1,608	215	1,823	20,174
Sheoganj	1,188	1,218	181	1,399	18,157
Pindwara	2,144	1,843	390	2,233	18,104
Reodar	2,097	2,251	314	2,565	24,851
Abu Road	(Not known)	880	270	1,150	7,273



The depth of the wells varies from 10 feet to 60 feet. Reodar tahsil has the maximum number of wells and irrigated the maximum area (24,851) acres. In 1960-61, an area of 88,559 acres was irrigated by wells and 6,820 acres by other sources.

**IRRIGATION BY SOURCE:**

(Acres)

Source	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Canals	..	..	..	..
Tanks	1,272	2,233	3,694	2,954
Wells and Tube-wells	74,581	73,791	67,505	78,775
Other sources	1,435	1,655	1,741	1,518
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>77,288</b>	<b>77,679</b>	<b>72,940</b>	<b>83,247</b>

**IRRIGATION BY CROPS**

(Acres)

Year	Food crops (other than sugar-cane)	Sugar- cane	Cotton	Others	Total
1956-57	72,459	17	1,185	20,515	94,176
1957-58	75,777	24	1,411	17,408	94,620
1958-59	73,476	11	1,629	13,447	88,563

**Soil Erosion**

Gully erosion is a serious problem both in the hills with slopes varying between 5 per cent to 15 per cent and the plains with slopes between 0.5 per cent to 3 per cent. It is more acute in areas where the rainfall is heavy such as Abu and Abu Road. In such areas, when the rains fall, the earth is scoured and the mud deposited in the fields, injuring the crops. In Reodar tahsil the erosion is due to winds also.

Anti-soil erosion including contour bunding, crop rotation, stripe cropping and use of better and improved implements are resorted to. In the plains, contour-bunding is done after proper survey to conserve the moisture available by rains whereas in hilly areas, terracing is done in small scattered fields. *Med bundi* is generally practised by the cultivators, though not uniformly. During the Second Plan period, 16,291 acres of land was reclaimed; on 200 acres contour bunding and on 6,287 acres of land *mer bunding* was done.

### AGRICULTURE

Soil and Crops.—Five types of soil are met with, namely (i) stiff clay, known as *mattiya* which is black in colour; it is most suitable for wheat, barley and cotton and is found in Pindwara tahsil and part of Sheoganj tahsil, (ii) *gorat* or *goradu* sometimes called *bhuri* which is light brown in colour and rather sandy, but fertile; it is mostly found in Reodar tahsil and in some parts of Sirohi and Sheoganj tahsils; it is suitable for *bajra*, (iii) *reti* or nearly pure sand which is found in river beds and is suited for tomatoes and watermelons, (iv) *kankari* or *kankarwali* which is hard and stony with an admixture of sand and found around the bases of some of the hills, (v) *Khari* or the land impregnated with salt and is unsuitable for the crops.

Writing of the crops of the Sirohi State, Lieut. Col. K. D. Erskine remarked in 1907:

“The principal *kharif* crops are maize or Indian corn (*zea mays*); *bajra* or spiked millet (*Pennisetum typhoidem* grown in the sandy soil chiefly in the north and west; and such pulses as *mung* (*Phaseolus mungo*), *moth* (*P. aconitifolius*), *urd* (*P. radiatus*), *Khulal* (*Dolichos biflorus*) and *gowar* (*Cyanopsis psoraloides*). “The most important *rabi* crops are wheat and barley, the staple food-grains of the upper classes; the area under wheat in an ordinary year is said by the Darbar to be about 9,000 acres or fourteen square miles. Gram (*Cicer arietinum*) is grown sparingly, and the only oil seed is *sarson* or mustard (*Brassica campestris*); tobacco is found in some villages but it is of a coarse kind”.

The chief crops are maize, *bajra*, wheat, barley and pulses like *moong*, *moth*, *urd* and gram. Cash crops like *sarson*, *til* and groundnut are also grown these days. Tomatoes and watermelons in the river beds are most common.

There are two main crop seasons, the *Kharif* or as it is usually called here, *barsala* and the *rabi* or *unali*. The *barsala* (autumn) crops begin with the first rains in July and are reaped in October. The *unali* (spring) crops are usually sown in November and harvested after April.

### Major Crops

*Wheat*.—The main *rabi* crop is wheat—a staple food for upper classes of the society. It is of two kinds *piwal* and *sewaj*. The former is grown on lands near wells and is irrigated. The soil is prepared during rainy season by repeated ploughing. Sowing begins about the middle of October and seed is applied at the rate of 60 to 100 pounds per acre and is sown through the tube attached to the plough or furrow. The crops take five to six months to come to maturity and require four to five waterings. Wheat is reaped with a sickle and collected into bundles and as the crops is usually very dry when harvested, it can be threshed almost at once. The green ears when roasted are called *holas* and are eaten, while the straw, known as *khakla* is used as fodder for the cattle.

*Sewaj*, the second kind of wheat is grown on land flooded by rains known as *relani*. The ground is prepared as in the case of *piwal* and when the rains cease and the water dries up, the field is harrowed to prevent evaporation.

The production of wheat in the recent years has been as shown below:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	5,888	23,770
1957-58	53,402	26,486
1958-59	48,708	22,116
1959-60	65,215	38,605
1960-61	54,795	20,793

*Bajra*.—*Bajra* or spiked millet is the staple food of the majority of the people and is extensively grown. It is sown with the first fall of sufficient rain and ripens within seventy to ninety days. *Bajra* compares favourably with *Jwar* as food, but the stalks, called *kharia*, are saltish and are consequently sparingly used as fodder. These are, however, suitable for thatching huts. The crop is sometimes grown alone, but is more commonly mixed with *moth* or *moong*. It is seldom watered or manured. It does best when the climate is moderately dry. *Bajra* never yields so large crop as *jwar* and it requires more weeding and ploughing than *jwar*. When the crop is four or five inches high the weeds and grass are cleared. A timely rainfall in August favours the growth of *bajra*. The parched green ears of *bajra* are called *bhutta* and are eaten. *Bajra* is chiefly used as a bread, grain and its *khichri* is also relished with *moong*. In this district *bajra* is preferred to *jwar* as a food-grain. In the recent years the production of *bajra* has been as under:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	42,580	1,686
1957-58	49,019	1,422
1958-59	68,552	6,182
1959-60	72,270	5,194
1960-61	71,496	2,981

*Maize*.—It comes next to *bajra* in importance, a total area of 2,347 acres being devoted to its cultivation in 1960-61. It is an irrigated crop, generally grown on lands attached to wells. The fields are ploughed two or three times before seed is broadcast in July or August. The crop ripens in about two months and the out-turn is ordinarily put at six maunds per acre. The cobs *dund* and *makkia* are picked off, stripped, dried in the sun and beaten with sticks to separate the grain.

The green heads *bhuttas* or *makyas* are usually eaten, parched or boiled and the ripe grains also parched and made into *phulia*. The ripe grain is also used in preparing bread. The production of maize in the district in the recent years was as given below:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	19,234	4,950
1957-58	23,930	6,677
1958-59	26,326	10,938
1959-60	29,666	11,002
1960-61	31,459	12,513

*Barley*.—The barley crop, like wheat, requires careful tillage and soil preparation. Its cultivation is similar to the *piwal* wheat except that it requires fewer waterings. Though mostly unmix, it is sometimes mixed with wheat, for preparing flour. It is also used in the *shraddha* ceremonies of the Hindus. Figures relating to its production in the recent years are as follows:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	10,290	4,819
1957-58	14,715	6,241
1958-59	11,963	5,159
1959-60	12,321	5,599
1960-61	11,731	5,449

*Juar*.—*Juar* or great millet requires a stiffer soil and greater amount of rains than *bajra*. It is sown between the middle of July and the end of August and is harvested in the end of October or beginning of November. Early

*jwar* for fodder is always sown on irrigated lands. When the crop is ripe, the heads are cut off and the stalks known as *karab* are carefully stocked and subsequently used as fodder for cattle. If, owing to insufficient rains, *jwar* is not thriving well, the stalks are often cut while green and stored for fodder known as *chiptu* which fetches a better price than *karab*.

*Jwar* and maize are the only cereals whose straw *karab* is used as a fodder in its natural form. *Jwar* grain is used chiefly as a bread grain but sometimes it is also parched *phuli*. Unripe *jwar* heads form chief item of food for the cultivating and labouring classes. The production of *jwar* during the last five years was as follows:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	11,070	87
1957-58	3,556	195
1958-59	13,308	921
1959-60	29,124	1,940
1960-61	10,483	333

Rice is sparingly grown. Its production in the recent years has been as shown below:—

Year	Area (Acres)	Production (tons)
1956-57	522	95
1957-58	543	97
1958-59	356	66
1959-60	504	181
1960-61	622	181

#### Pulses

*Gourar* is sown during the *kharif* season as a *barani* crop mixed with *bajra* and *jwar*. For green manuring it is ploughed at the time of flowering in the end of August or beginning of September. It is mainly used as concentrate for cattle.

Gram is a winter crop, grown usually alone but sometimes mixed with barley. It requires a light loamy soil, but is neither irrigated nor weeded. The land is ploughed four times before the seed is sown in October and then harrowed once. If rain falls in December and January, a fine crop is almost a certainty, but there is always a danger of damage by frost and lightening is believed to be injurious if the pulse be in blossom. When the seedling begin to branch, the leading shoots are sometimes ripped off to make the plant bushier and more productive and the cuttings are used as vegetables. Gram is used as *dal* and the chaff makes an excellent fodder. It is also powdered and mixed with wheat flour for bread which is known as *missi*.

*Kulath* is sown in the months of June and July and ripens in November and December. It does not require much water or manure. The pulse is generally given to the animals after it is boiled. It is also used by the poorer class for eating after it is mixed with salt and chillies.

*Moth* is sown in June and July and is reaped in October and November. It is usually grown with *bajra* and *jwar*.

*Urd* is sown in July and is frequently mixed with *bajra*. The green pod is not used as vegetable and only ripened grams are used as split pulse. It is used for preparing certain sweetmeats.

*Moong* is sown with *bajra* or *jwar* or sometimes alone, in June and July and is harvested in September. It does not require any manuring or irrigation.

### Oilseeds

The principal oilseeds are *sarson* or mustard and *sesamum*, though groundnuts are also grown now.

*Sarson* is a cold weather crop grown on land either attached to wells or irrigated from canals. Its oil is edible and put to multipurpose uses e. g. for preserving the pickles, for preparing the collyrium and also as a medicine.

*Sesamum* is broadcast generally in claying soil about the end of August, usually with *bajra* and is harvested in October and November. Its cake, known as *khal* is generally given to the cattle to increase their milk and is also used as manure.

*Groundnut.*—Recently the production of groundnut has increased, the area occupied during the years 1955-56, 1958-59 and 1960-61 have been 9;100 and 979 acres respectively.

*Cotton.*—Before sowing the seed, the land is ploughed two to three times and the seeds having been rubbed in cowdung, are broadcast in July. One or two weedings are done before the plants begin to produce flowers in October or November and from this time they require a good deal of watering until the pods open. The cotton is ready to be picked in January and there are generally two pickings.

*Fibres.*—Cotton and san-hemp are only fibres of any consequence grown in the district whose production during 1960-61 was 422 bales (of 392 lbs. each) and 594 bales (of 400 lbs. each) respectively.

#### Condiments and Spices

The chief condiments grown in the district are chillies, garlic and *variāli*. The area covered during 1955-56 and 1960-61 was as below :—

(Acres)							
Year	Tahsil	Chillies	Coriander	Cumin	Garlic	Variāli	Others
1955-56	Sirohi	135	..	..	..	6	569
	Sheoganj	160	8	2	5	..	..
	Pindwara	216	..	..	..	67	..
	Reodar	185	..	..	..	119	..
1960-61	Sirohi	362	..	..	7	14	985
	Sheoganj	302	..	..	7	20	285
	Pindwara	527	..	..	30	8	204
	Reodar	294	..	..	11	76	380
	Abu Road	169	..	..	5	33	181

#### Fruits and Vegetables

“At Abu, Erinpura and Sirohi, English vegetables are obtainable during the cold months in abundance, and a very limited supply can be procured at other season of the year. Potatoes are grown for the market during the rains on Abu, and in the cold weather at a few other places; they are generally of fair quality, though not equal to the Himalayan tuber. Lettuces, turnips, carrots, cauliflowers, parsnips, cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers, celery, spinach, peas, two species of artichoke, and beans of several sorts



can be cultivated throughout the cold weather wherever there is fresh water, as the soil is generally suitable and the climate of the plains sufficiently cool between October and April”<sup>1</sup>. “The following are some of the favourable vegetables of the people:—brinjal or egg plant (*Solanum melongena*); yam (*Dioscorea sativa*); sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*); chilly (*Capsicum annum*); and a variety of the gourd and cucumber family.”<sup>2</sup>

“Fruit bearing trees are numerous and include the *am* or mango; the *amrud* or guava of both white and red kinds; the *ber* or plum, the *jamun* (*Eugenia jambolana*); the *khajur* or datepalm; the *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*); the mulberry; the pomegranate, the pummelo; besides orange, lime and several varieties of figs. Grapes, strawberries, peaches and cape gooseberries are cultivated at Abu and a few other places, and melons are grown in the beds of rivers and streams. Bushes of *karanda* (*Carissa carandas*) abound on Abu and the fruit is exported in large quantities to the plains below.”<sup>3</sup>

This position in regard to the varieties of fruits and vegetables grown in the district, more or less, remains the same. However, they are now grown on larger areas and attempts to improve their quality continue to be made.

The tahsil-wise figures of area covered by vegetable and orchards during 1960-61, is given below:—

<i>Tahsil</i>	<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>Orchard</i>
Sirohi	101 acres	10 acres
Sheoganj	156 „	35 „
Pindwara	63 „	Not known
Reodar	150 „	„
Abu Road	349 „	„

The rare ornamental trees of *gulab jamun* (rose apple—*eugenia jambos*) belonging to the myrtle family (relative of guava group) grow near Achalgarh and bear beautiful fruits.

Potatoes and tomatoes are exported to other parts of the district. The tomatoes are cultivated in the river beds particularly in Reodar and Abu Road tahsils.

The accompanying tables give the area and production of various crops during recent years:—

1. Erskine's Gazetteer of Sirohi, 1907, p. 261.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.* p.262.

## Commercial Crops

Year	Sugarcane	Onion	Potatoes	Ginger	Sesamum	Rape and mustard	Linseed	Groundnut	Castor- seed	Cotton †	Tobacco	SanHemp †
1956-57	19/517	730/265	86/123	..	43016/526	10416/1951	2/..	15/3	89/15	1254/383	262/97	630/152
1958-59	16/290	718/265	195/279	..	51014/8586	6759/723	..	100/14	303/50	1798/444	322/115	581/581
1960-61	7/40	1654/640	31/15	..	51369/1697	3940/325	3/..	979/100	270/..	1394/422	244/135	594/594

† Production of cotton and hemp in the country.

### Crop Pattern

Among the cereals, the production of *bajra* and maize has considerably increased and though the area under barley and small millets have remained almost stationary, the output has shown a remarkable upward trend. Among the pulses, gram appears to be becoming less popular and tur is gaining more attention. The commercial crops which have attracted greater attention are chillies, groundnuts and tobacco, whereas cotton, though comparatively of recent introduction in the district, has rapidly grown in popularity.

### Agricultural Operations

Agricultural operations are still carried out under the influence of certain astronomical conditions, particular attention being paid to the 27 *nakshatras* and the occurrence of certain auspicious conjunctions.

*Ploughing.*—On *Akhateej*, third day of the bright half of *Vaishakh* (May), the farmer starts his operations by harrowing his field twice, first length-wise and then across. When new land is brought under the plough, bushes and shrubs on it are cut or burnt on the spot in order to fertilize the soil or sometimes used to erect fence around the farm. The ground is then roughly levelled. This clearing process is called *Sur*. Ploughing operations usually begin with the first fall of sufficient rain. The land is ploughed once, twice or thrice according to the stiffness of the soil and these three ploughings are respectively called *phar*, *chauk* and *bijari*. In some cases four to eight ploughings are necessary. For *rabi* crops, four to five ploughings are generally given in September or October and the seeds are kept ready for sowing near Diwali. Either a camel or a pair of bullocks is yoked to each plough, though sometimes buffaloes are also used. On an average, the ordinary plough turns over half an acre of land in a day.

*Manuring.*—Cowdung and goatdung are generally used for manurial purposes, if available. This manure is not available in adequate quantity in Pindwara tahsil where green manuring is being practised since long. Zora area of Sirohi tahsil and some parts of Sheoganj tahsil also do not get sufficient manure. Tank silt is also used as manure wherever available.

The soil of the district is deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus and at places, in potash. These deficiencies are being overcome by organic and inorganic manures. Besides the cowdung and goatdung, the manures which are in use are:—Calcium ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate nitrates and nitro-supersulphate. All these fertilizers are given on cash and credit basis. Superphosphate which is yet to get popular, is being supplied at 25 per cent subsidised rates. The distribution of fertilizers during the Second Plan was as under:—

(Tons)

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
(a) Ammonium Sulphate	30	36	102	22	60
(b) Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate	..	..	..	28	5
(c) Other Nitrogenous fertilizers	..	..	22	7	8
(d) Superphosphate	2	2	3	15	4

*Sowing*—The process of sowing is called *bijari*. The seed is sometimes scattered broadcast, especially in the case of *til*, or sown in lines by means of a bamboo drill attached to the plough. The *kharif* sowing usually begins under *Ardra nakshtra* after one or two showers. *Jwar* and other *kharif* crops are sown with the *nai*. Farmers ordinarily wait for the auspicious time (*mahurat*) for sowing which is fixed by the village priest or astrologer.

When the sowing of *kharif* crop has been completed, the preparation of fields reserved for the *rabi* crops is started. Ploughing is carried out when there is a break in the rains to eradicate weeds and open out the soil to absorb moisture. In the month of *Asoj* or *Kartik* ploughing is done for the last time and then the seeds are sown. Wheat is generally sown with the *nai* under the *swati nakshtra* and gram in

*Hasta.* If the monsoon has been below normal and no rains fall between October and in beginning of November, the sowing of the *rabi* crops may be abandoned in the non-irrigated area.

*Weeding.*—The *rabi* crops require no weeding, but 15 days after the *kharif* crops have been sown and the seedlings are about 8 inches high, weeding is done from time to time by hand or by harrow. Two weeks later the process is repeated and about a week after this, if the soil is workable, the plants are thinned out by hand. A week or two after the thinning has been completed, the field is weeded by hand (*nindai*).

*Protection.*—To protect the crop from the birds, cattle, and wild pigs, scare crows are erected. Usually a woman or a boy is set to watch the crop who sits on a scaffold (*dagla*) raised 10 to 12 feet above the ground, from that point of vantage, he or she hurls stones from a sling (*gophan*) or else cracks a whip made from the fibre of *sann* called *phatrakhs* or beats an empty kerosene tin.

*Harvesting.*—The reaping (*duchi* or *laoni*) is done by men called *denagias*, meaning daily wage workers, or *barias* at the rate of about a bigha per head. Stalks bearing ears such as *bajri*, wheat and barley are cut with a sickle (*dantli*) while those bearing pods, such as gram, are up-rooted. Pulses are mostly cut as whole plants. Vegetables are picked by hand and leafy once are uprooted. Root crops like potatoes and groundnuts are harvested by digging with spade. They are placed by the reaper in a bag (*jholi*), worn on the body and when the bag is full, the produce is deposited at a pre-arranged spot, whence it is carried by cart or camel to the threshing floor.

*Threshing.*—The *khals* or threshing floor is usually located in the vicinity of the village site. The ground is made hard and by watering and ramming with a wooden mallet it is made smooth and even. The process of threshing is called *gaita*. An upright post (*med*), about 6 feet high is fixed in the centre and a thick wall of stalks is built around.

The heads of the corn are then strewn over the floor in a heap round the post and trampled by two or four bullocks yoked abreast to the post. This operation is called *yahna*.

*Winnowing.*—The next process is that of winnowing (*Upanna*). After the grain has been released, it is collected in a heap and then winnowed. Three persons are required for the process; one stands on a stool (*tarpya*) about three feet high, the second hands him the baskets of grain and chaff which are slowly emptied into the wind and the third person separates the fallen grain from the chaff with the aid of a broom. The chaff (*bhusa*) is used as fodder for cattle. The cultivators are in the habit of keeping a *dantli* (sickle) or a plough-share (*kusva*) buried in the grain in order to ward off evil spirits.

### Implements

The field implements used by the agriculturists are largely of the old type. The main implements are ploughs, harrows, levellers, clod-crushers, seed-drills and hoes.

Gradually new implements are replacing the old ones. To break the crust of the soil, harrow type instruments are used. The other improved implements introduced in the district are seed-drill, meston plough, bund former, handhoes, wahwah cultivator, winnowers and alpod threshers. In 1960-61 the number of wooden ploughs was 33,389, iron ploughs 83, persian wheels and *arhat* 3,194, pumps to raise water run by oil engines 201, pumps run by electricity to raise water 15, tractors 47 (of these one belonged to the government) and carts 10,788.

*Seeds.*—The department of agriculture distributes the improved seeds. Each panchayat samiti has one seed store (*pucca*) to stock these. These are distributed to the *panchayats*, who in turn, also have stores of their own. Usual practice is that the *panchayats* store the seeds of the previous harvest so as to use these for the next year. There is a farm (under Sirohi Samiti) at Ora having an area of 100 acres. *Bajra* seeds come from Bhinmal and *jwar* from Abu Road. Wheat is brought from Suratgarh Farm, maize seeds from Tabiji Farm Ajmer and the other seeds from registered seed-growers.

### Rotation of Crops

Lieut. Col. Erskine writes about the crop rotation in Sirohi State: "Manure is used every second or third year

and there is no rotation of crops, the same land being sown with wheat or barley year after year." But now, rotation is most common on land suitable for both *rabi* and *kharif* crops. Such fields generally bear a *kharif* crop in one year and *rabi* crop the next year, provided that either of the two crops is wholly or partially a pulse; a pulse crop is invariably grown at least once in two years.

In rich fields capable of growing *rabi* crop, *jwar* is usually alternated with wheat or gram. In poorer fields, cotton takes the place of *jwar*. Sometimes *jwar* is sown in the first year, wheat or gram the second year and cotton or pulse in the third year. *Til* or *rameli* or *ram-tilli* are grown to improve the fertility of the soil. Similarly, when there are good winter showers, a gram crop is grown in order to obtain a bumper cotton in the next year. The *khar* from the gram stalk, it is believed, improves its fertility.

#### Agricultural pests and diseases

The main diseases found in the district, are:

Wheat	Smuts, rust
Gowar	Erysiphae
Jwar	Grah-smut, leaf spot
Til	Virus diseases
Chillies	"
Citrus	Citrus canker

Smuts are controlled by treating seeds with agrosan G. N. There is no definite check for rust and only the rust resistance varieties can help in this matter. As far as virus diseases are concerned, there is no curative measure except to uproot the plants, though sometimes, B. H. C. dust may also help. Total damage to the crops due to various diseases may normally be assessed at less than 20 per cent.

The main pests are white ants, stem borer, aphids, lemon butterfly, *katra* etc.

#### Departmental Activities

The District Agriculture Officer, in conjunction with the panchayat samitis, tries to improve crop production by suggesting better methods of cultivation through actual demonstrations, supplying better seeds and fertilizers and taking steps to eradicate crop diseases and pests. The accompanying statement shows the extent of activities of the Agriculture Department in the district during the Second Five Year Plan:—

Name of the Scheme	Targets						Achievements																
	1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		Total		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		Total				
	57	61	58	61	59	61	60	61	57	61	57	61	58	61	59	61	60	61	57	61			
1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13
1. Minor irrigation (Number)																							
(a) Installation of persian wheels.	10		6		8		12		20		56		10		6		8		3		9		36
(b) Installation of pumping sets.	2		4		2		5		30		43		..		3		2		2		55		62
(c) Construction & deepening of wells.	..		..		..		24		220		244		..		28		46		29		218		321
(d) Development of village tanks.	..		..		..		8		1		9		..		..		..		..		1		1
2. Compost Scheme																							
(a) Compost prepared and distributed (in tons)	..		..		..		500		3000		3500		200		200		2300		1100		5000		8800
(b) Pits dug (number)	..		..		..		..		600		600		..		..		..		..		6043		6043
(c) Green manuring (acres.)	..		..		..		..		500		500		40		100		300		700		578		1718
3. Fertilizer distribution (in tons)																							
(a) Amm. Sulphate	40		40		120		150		50		400		30		36		102		22		60		250
(b) Amm. Sul. Nitrate	..		..		..		..		5		5		..		..		..		28		5		33
(c) Other Nitrogenous fertilizer.	..		..		..		..		71		71		..		..		22		7		8		37
(d) Super phosphate	..		..		..		..		5		5		2		2		3		15		4		26



4. Seed distribution (in mds.)

(a) Wheat	..	..	..	6500	6500	5707	8763	13886	1996	6930	37282
(b) Barley	..	..	..	50	50	115	145	134	50	58	502
(c) Gram	..	..	..	50	50	..	..	..	35	40	75
(d) Maize	..	..	..	100	100	..	53	53	800	311	1217
(e) Sainai	..	..	..	..	..	40	15	124	300	..	479
(f) Bajra	..	..	..	60	60	..	..	..	..	69	69
(4) Vegetable seeds	..	..	..	200	200	..	..	..	..	320	320
5. Implants (number)	..	..	..	441	441	54	48	180	225	450	937
6. Soil conservation (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Land reclamation

(b) Contour bunding	..	..	..	1500	1500	..	..	..	..	16291	16291
(c) Mer bunding	..	..	..	4600	4600	..	..	..	..	200	200
7. Plant Protection (in acres)	..	..	..	6000	6000	..	..	..	..	6287	6287

(a) Control of Grass Hoppers

(b) Control of Rats	1000	3000	1000	500	200	..	700	4	200	481	220/1/2	..	905/1/2
(c) Control of vegetables pests and diseases	..	..	500	500	150	1150	10	..	..	513	346	149/1/2	1018/1/2
(d) Seed treatment	..	..	3000	2000	6000	10000	..	..	..	1000	1018	8070	10088
(e) Control of Field crops from pests and diseases	..	..	..	..	1000	1000	100	100	200	1183	1192	2775	..
(f) Weed control	..	..	..	..	1000	1000	..	..	..	..	..	410	410

8. Improved Agricultural practices (in acres)

9. Fruit Plant distributed (number)	..	..	..	..	..	50000	50000	1600	500	2300	3047	56940	64587
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The department maintains a nursery at Mt. Abu which started in 1958 in a three acre area. The plants grown are grapes, figs, pear, peach and vegetables.

#### Consolidation of land holdings

In 1959-60, twenty-three villages of Sheoganj tahsil of this district were taken up for consolidation operations. The reasons for choosing this particular area of the district for the purpose were : (i) the intensity of fragmentations in these villages was found to be more than fifty per cent and (ii) these villages were contiguous to the tahsils of Bali and Ahore of Pali district where consolidation operations had already been taken up. Upto the year 1960-61, work on 21 villages comprising an area of 59,709 acres was over. The position before and after the consolidation of these 21 villages, is given under:—

	(Acres)	
	<i>Before consolidation</i>	<i>After consolidation</i>
(1) Area	59,709	59,709
(2) Number of Khasra	13,318	7,414
(3) Number of Khataas	3,161	2,785
(4) Area per khasra or average size of holdings	4.49	8.05

Lands have been reserved for common purposes such as playgrounds, schools and roads and the revenue records have been brought up-to-date which helps in preventing litigation.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

*Area under fodder crops.*—The area under fodder crops in 1960-61 was 43,901 acres, i.e., 3.43 per cent of the total

area of the district. The following table shows the area under fodder crops since 1955-56 :—

	(Acres)
1955-56	26,341
1956-57	29,959
1957-58	33,261
1958-59	29,484
1959-60	39,727
1960-61	43,901

Grazing lands are extensive in the district and in normal years the grass is sufficient. During the State times, the forest department maintained '*jods*' (as it maintains paddocks now) which were auctioned to public when grass was in sufficient quantity. Every village has its *gauchar* land (permanent pastures) and in 1960-61, the total area earmarked as '*gauchar*' was 82,204 acres. During the lean years forests are thrown open for grazing for a limited number of cattles.

The principal fodder crops of the district are the stalks of *jwar* and maize. '*Kuttar*' prepared by cutting the dry stalks of wheat, *jwar* and maize is used as fodder. Dry leaves of berry bushes called *pala* and the leaves of *laung* are given to goat. The forest department runs a Fodder Bank Scheme and collects fodder for use in the years of scarcity. In recent years, its collections were as below:—

Year	Collection (maunds)
1956-57	6,207
1957-58	14,457
1958-59	17,523
1959-60	8,460

The two best grasses are *karr* and *jenjua*. The third is *genda* which is reddish and coarser and more suited to buffaloes than cows. Next is *surwal* (spear-grass) and cattle eat it when green in rains. Last of the grazing grasses comes the *lamp*, an inferior grass of low growth and with no substance, always found growing on poor and rocky soil. *Karr* and *jenjua* when cut green and dried before being stored,

are called *nihwea*. Of the very tall grasses, there is the *barru* (*sarpat*), only used for thatching and making screens. The well-known trailing grass generally known as *dhub* and locally as *dhurra* is found more or less, all over the district especially in damp ground.

*Cattle*.—Writing in 1907, Major K.D. Erskine remarked "Cattle are bred in considerable numbers, but are not possessed of any special qualities. The *Rebaris* keep large herds of camels, cows, sheep, goats and buffaloes and the villagers of Abu find a good market for milk and *ghi*."

The cattle now found belong to *Kankraj* and *Nari* breed and their cross-breeds. The *Sanchori* as well as *Gir* (locally known as *Rendra*) breeds are also met. The bulls are large and have massive horns and humps. The buffaloes belong to a cross-breed of *Murra* and local breed.

*Sheep and Goats*.—The important breed of sheep found in the district is *Marwari* which is hardy and has medium or short ears and a black face. The *Marwari* ewes weight between 50 and 65 lbs. whereas the rams of the same species tip the scale somewhere between 60 and 80 lbs. The average yield of wool is 45 to 70 grams. The wool is coarse and suitable for carpets. A sheep and wool extension centre functions at Pindwara.

Sirohi has its own breed of goats, known as Sirohi breed which is mainly a milch type. This breed has a thin, smooth, clean, pliable skin, small ears and stunted horns with bay or the chestnut as the predominant colour. It is of medium size and the average milk yield is 4-6 lbs. They have long hanging teats.

*Others*.—In 1960-61, there were 5,197 camels, 1,130 horses, 5 mules, 3,170 donkeys and 37 pigs in the district. The number of poultry was 22,725.

*Fisheries*.—The district offers good scope for pisciculture. Some of the important water sources for this purpose in the district are: (i) Trevortal (ii) Achalgarh tank (iii) Pipella (iv) Bund Bhula Tuda (v) Ramela tank (vi) Swaroop Sagar tank and (vii) Naya Sanwara tank. For a

long time, some of these waters have been put to auction and have fetched the following income:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Income (Rs.)</i>
1959-60	1,805
1960-61	1,645
1961-62	1,970
1962-63	1,190
1963-64	2,064

River Banas (West) dam offers a good scope for expansion of riverine fisheries. As early as 1959-60, the Mirror Carp variety of fish, was introduced in the Travortal and Achalgarh tank and since then these are breeding profusely and have grown up to a good size (length 1' 6", girth 1' 3", weight 7 lbs.). Due to the rush of the tourists during the summer season at Abu, its daily consumption is about a maund and the rest is exported to Ajmer and also outside Rajasthan.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer of Sirohi district and the Assistant Fisheries Development Officer, Ajmer respectively have administrative and technical supervision over the scheme.

*Stock Improvement.*—There is no Key Village Scheme-cum-Artificial Insemination Centre in the district. However, each Panchayat Samiti has an Animal Husbandry Extension Officer whose guidance and help is available to the villagers.

There is a Mass Immunisation Unit at Sirohi which was started in 1956-57. In 1960-61, it inoculated 57,981 animals.

*Livestock Figures.*—The following table shows the livestock position in the district in 1960-61. Figures for 1956

are also given for purposes of comparison:

Item	1956	1961*	Increase (+) or Decrease (—)
	1	2	3
<i>Cattle</i>			
1. Males over 3 years:			
(a) Breeding	596	361	
(b) Working	64,092	70,496	
(c) Others	2,281	2,680	
2. Females over three years:			
(a) In milk	34,146	36,650	
(b) Others	40,746	50,753	
3. Young stock	78,548	83,215	
TOTAL CATTLE :	2,20,409	2,44,155	(+)23,7
1. Males over 3 years:			
(a) Breeding	222	219	
(b) Working	1,992	3,555	
(c) Others	115	354	
2. Females over 3 years:			
(a) In milk	15,639	14,875	
(b) Others	13,828	17,804	
3. Young Stock	22,079	26,385	
BUFFALOES TOTAL:	53,875	63,192	(+)9,317

\* The figures are provisional and are taken from Statistical Abstract Rajasthan 1961 published by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics Rajasthan, Jaipur.

	1	2	3
<i>Sheep</i>	1,47,268	1,48,239	(+)971
<i>Goats</i>	2,53,843	2,32,071	(-)21,772
<i>Horses</i>	1,471	1,130	(-)341
<i>Mules</i>	19	5	(-)14
<i>Donkeys</i>	3,474	3,170	(-)304
<i>Camels</i>	3,710	5,197	(+)1,487
<i>Pigs</i>	163	37	(-)126
TOTAL ANIMALS:	6,84,232	6,97,196	(+)12,964
Poultry	11,697	22,727	(+)11,030

### Veterinary Hospitals

The overall incharge of the veterinary institutions in the district is the District Animal Husbandry Officer headquartered at Jalore. There are two veterinary hospitals situated at Mount Abu and Sirohi and two dispensaries at Pindwara and Reodar. The hospital at Sirohi was opened in 1945-46 whereas the dispensaries at Pindwara and Reodar were opened in 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively. Besides as stated earlier, there is a Mass Immunisation Centre in the district.

During 1960-61, these hospitals and dispensaries treated a total of 15,247 cases and a total of 237 castrations were performed, while the number of the cases in which medicine was supplied was 5,775. The field staff on tour, treated 1,503 animals for contagious diseases, 6,835 for non-contagious ones. 4,311 castrations were performed while the number of those vaccinated was 30,630. The work done by the

hospitals and dispensaries in the district for the last two years is tabulated below:

*The number of animals treated and castrated at the veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in Sirohi District.*

Year	No. of Veterinary hospitals & dispensaries.	No. of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons employed.	No. of patients treated			No. of cases completed with medicines but not brought to the institution	Castration per. formed.
			Indoor	Outdoor	Total		
1958-59	4	3	112	9,292	9,404	2,915	212
1959-60	4	2	317	14,544	14,861	5,411	1,684

### Animal Disease

The most common cattle diseases are pleuropneumonia or '*motu rog*', rinder-pest (*mata*) and liver fluck; the lesser diseases are the foot and mouth disease, *surra*, haemorrhagic septicemia, black quarter, tympanites, pneumonia, and mastitis.

Tympanites is locally known as *afara* and the traditional remedies used by the local people are many and varied, such as: administration of (a) whey (one pint) and *kachari* (one tola); (b) sweet oil (one tola) and turpentine; (c) chillies (one tola) and *gur* (one chhatak); (d) ash (two chhataks) and water (one pint); (e) onion (two chhataks), ginger (two tolas) and *gur* in sufficient quantities; (f) *ajwan*, black salt, ginger, mustard and *chirata* all of these one ounce each.

For pneumonia, inhalation of sugar or almond internally is used. Mastitis is cured by fomentation by green leaves like *neem* and *oak*. Internal parasites of all types can be cured by applying arecanut, copper sulphate, mustard, coriander and plaspapra. Sprain of the shoulder is removed by tying the dry hides' rope on the fetlock region on the opposite foot. The animal is then allowed to swim in tank after which, some *gur* is fed.

Camels are afflicted by two diseases locally called *kalia* and *tibarsa* respectively. *Kalia* stricken animals die after acute shivering followed by a collapse. The owners slit the ears of the animal and, if no blood issues, the animal



is left to die. *Tibarsa* is a sort of remittent fever, lasting sometimes for as long as three years (the disease takes its name from its duration i. e. *Ti* means three and *barsa* means years); the patient avoids sitting in the moon-light, seeks shade and gradually wastes away. The traditional remedy of *kapali* is the inhalation of dry tobacco powder and *kaner* leaves. For diarrhoea, *bura* (1/4 seer), *mehandi* (one chhatak), and *besan* (1/4 seer) and sweet oil (one seer) are mixed together and given, or catachue (two ounce), chalk (two ounce) and rice water (one gallon) all mixed together and administered by mouth.

The diseases of the buffaloes are *jhenja*, a skin disease disappearing in three days if promptly attended to and *chiri*, an affection of the lungs, causing the animal to run at the mouth and refuse food and terminating fatally within twelve hours if proper remedies are not applied.

Goats suffer from (i) *gattiya*, a disease of the throat which can be cured by lancing the affected part where a poisonous fluid has collected, (ii) *burkiya*, when the animal goes round in a circle till it exhausts itself, falls and expires, (iii) *pephwia*, an affection of the lungs and (iv) *mata* (rinderpest) which is very fatal when it appears and usually carries off more than half of the flock.

The sheep is immune from rinderpest but anthrax sometimes attacks severely. Other sheep diseases are contagious pneumonia and other parasitical diseases. The statistics of the various diseases and deaths caused by these are given below:

*Statistics of attacks and deaths from contagious diseases and other causes.*

Year	Rinderpest.	Haemorrhagic septicaemia.	Foot and mouth	Black quarter	Anthrax	Surra	Other contagious & parasitic diseases	Total	Other causes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Cattle</b>									
<b>1957-58</b>									
Attacks	140	..	670	..	..	..	..	810	
Deaths	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1958-59									
Attacks	35	45	1022	5	..	..	4	1,111	4
Deaths	18	45	..	..	..	..	4	67	4
1959-60									
Attacks	943	105	735	35	12	..	..	1830	326
Deaths	515	101	..	30	12	..	..	658	..
<i>Buffaloes</i>									
1957-58									
Attacks	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	..
Deaths	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
1958-59									
Attacks	..	..	297	..	..	..	..	297	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1959-60									
Attacks	25	105	327	10	3	..	..	470	..
Deaths	20	100	..	8	3	..	..	131	..

Year	Anthrax	Pox	Pleuro-pneumonia.	Foot & mouth	Scabies	Other contagious & parasitic diseases.	Total	Other causes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

*Sheep*

1957-58

Attacks	60	..	..	..	63	..	123	..
Deaths	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	..

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>1958-59</b>									
Attacks	..	..	..	..	..	136	136	..	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	33	33	..	
<b>1959-60</b>									
Attacks	..	..	..	243	..	924	1167	357	
Deaths	..	..	..	7	..	118	125	246	
<i>Goats</i>									
<b>1957-58</b>									
Attacks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
<b>1958-59</b>									
Attacks	..	..	25	..	..	..	25	..	
Deaths	..	..	10	..	..	..	10	..	
<b>1959-60</b>									
Attacks	..	..	..	..	589	..	589	..	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

Year	Rabies	Other contagious & parasi- tic diseases	Total	Other causes
<i>Dogs</i>				
<b>1957-58</b>				
Attacks	..	..	..	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..
<b>1958-59</b>				
Attacks	..	..	..	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..
<b>1959-60</b>				
Attacks	..	..	..	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..

year	Surra	Mango	Pleuro-pneumonia	Other contagious & parasitic diseases	Total	Other causes
<b>Camels</b>						
1957-58						
Attacks	20	..	..	..	20	..
Deaths	1	..	..	..	1	..
1958-59						
Attacks	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..
1959-60						
Attacks	385	798	..	..	1183	206
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..

**Poultry**

There is no poultry farm in the district worth mentioning. The local requirement is met by individual poultry-keepers. The seasonal requirement at Abu Road and Mount Abu is met by the import of eggs from Ahmedabad. However, the Animal Husbandry Department has plans to develop the poultry in the district by setting up their own farms and also by encouraging the private farms. The Department has set up a few farms. Some private farms have also come up. Government Loans and other assistance are provided to encouraging poultry farming.

The common disease among the poultry is *Ranikhet*. The following table gives the figures of the poultry suffering from various diseases during the recent years:—

Year	Ranikhet disease	Fowlpox	Spirochaetosis	Coccidiosis	Other contagious & parasitic diseases	Total	Other diseases
1957-58							
Attacks	140	..	..	..	..	140	..
Deaths	20	..	..	..	..	20	..
1958-59							
Attacks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1959-60							
Attacks	710	..	..	35	..	745	..
Deaths	710	..	..	30	..	740	..

### FAMINE AND FLOODS

"The country often suffers from droughts more or less severe, but lies in a rainier zone than its neighbour, Jodhpur, and its wooded hills generally attract a fair share of the monsoon clouds. In the southern and eastern tahsils there is usually a goodly amount of rain, but over the rest of the State the fall is more often scant than otherwise; this is accounted for by Abu and the Aravalis drawing to themselves the greater portion of the clouds as they are driven up from the sea-coast by the south-west monsoon. The wheat and barley crops are occasionally damaged by frost or a black blight called *geru* which is apt to come on if cloudy weather prevails in the spring; locusts are sometimes destructive, but their visits are fortunately rare. There is said to have been famine in 1746, 1785, 1812-13, 1833 and 1848, but no details are available."

It is said that in the famine of 1812-13 A.D. the price of wheat had risen high in Sirohi and it used to sell at 3½ *pailies* or 4 seers for a rupee and that in 1833 A.D. 9 *pailies* or ten seers of wheat could be had for a rupee. The scarcity of water, fodder and grass was not much keenly felt during those famines.

In 1848 famine average rate of wheat and food-grain was 10 seers for a rupee. The grass and fodder situation was not acute and the harvests reaped during the year were half to those of the preceding year.

#### • Famine of 1868-69

In 1868, the *kharif* crops failed due to rains and the sudden heavy outpour during March 1869 damaged the *rabi* crops considerably; the out turn was only six annas in the rupee. Prices rose high, and many migrated to Gujarat for employment on the various relief works started there. The agriculturists suffered much less than the *Rubaris* and *Girasias* who lost their cattle. Relief measures were soon taken by the *Darbar* such as giving the advance of grain etc. to the needy. Maharaja Umed Singh in November 1868 removed all restrictions on export and import of grain, contributed generously to a relief fund raised by the European

Residents of Abu and Deesa and set aside a sum of Rs. 5,000 for deepening a tank at his capital. The Executive Engineer at Abu provided employment to a large number of people; poor-houses were setup at Anadra, Erinpura and Abu.

As a result of this famine, the expenditure incurred was about Rs. 25,000 excluding the charities from His Highness' private purse. The loss of human life in Sirohi was much less than in other parts of Rajputana. Fifty to seventy-five per cent of the cattle perished; plough-bullocks and buffaloes were taken most care of on account of their value. Cows succumbed in enormous numbers, and those that survived till the rains of 1869, were so reduced in strength that they died by thousands from surfeit of green grass.

Large quantities of grain were imported from Gujarat on camels; many of these camels are reported to have succumbed to over exhaustion. The rate of transport rose thereby adding to the cost of food. Wheat, which in July 1868, had been fifteen seers a rupee on Abu and seventeen in the plains below, had by the middle of September, risen to seven and eight seers respectively, and soon afterwards was still higher. In the following year, wheat was selling (in July) at Abu between  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and at the end of September, between  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  seers a rupee. At Anadra grain was slightly cheaper, but at Sirohi and other towns prices ranged higher and, in October 1869, three seers of wheat could with difficulty, be purchased for a rupee at the capital.

#### Scarcity of 1877-78

The year 1877 was one of scarcity. The rainfall was scanty, less than eight inches in the plains and the *kharif* crops were almost totally destroyed; prices ruled high and the cattle suffered for want of fodder, but no relief measures were deemed necessary.

#### Famine of 1899-1900

In 1899-1900, rather more than the usual rains in June induced the cultivators to sow their fields, but the monsoon practically ceased with the arrival of July, and by September, the withered crops were being used as fodder. The situation was, however, not so serious as in Jodhpur. Never

theless, adequate measures were taken by the *Darbar*. Reserved forests were thrown open for free removal of timber and other products; fair price shops were opened for the poor and the advances made to the cultivators by their *bohars* were guaranteed. The only relief work open at this time was a tank at Pindwara, but another was started at the capital in December, and a large number of persons were employed. The Government of India advanced a loan of two lakhs to the *Darbar* and placed at its disposal the services of a qualified European Engineer. Other works were started, poor-houses were opened, and the number on relief increased rapidly.

These consisted of five irrigation projects and four roads, and a large number of persons were benefitted, chiefly the Minas, Bhils and Girasias who also monopolised the gratuitous relief provided by the *Darbar*, namely; five poor-houses and food for the dependents of workers. The direct expenditure by the State during this famine was nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, and a further sum of Rs. 48,000 was advanced to agriculturists and others, while remissions and suspensions of land revenue amounted to about Rs. 25,000 and two lakhs respectively.

It was estimated that about 2,000 people died of starvation and 5,000 emigrated; if these figures are even fairly accurate, the mortality from other causes, such as cholera in the middle of 1900 and malarial fever in the concluding months of that year, must have been very heavy, for the State lost more than 36,000 inhabitants between 1891 and 1901. Owing to an almost entire absence of fodder, about three-fourths of the livestock perished, and more than 19,000 maunds of hides were exported by railway. As regards prices of grains, the highest quotations were: *jwar* 7, wheat  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and barley 8 seers per rupee (all in October 1899), and gram  $7\frac{1}{2}$  seers (in July 1900).

#### Scarcity of 1901-1902

Insufficient rainfall and damage by rats caused scarcity in 1901-02 in about half the State. The *Darbar* borrowed Rs. 30,000 from the British Government to meet the expenditure on relief works and remissions of land revenue. A sum of Rs. 2,500 received from the Board of Management of the Indian People's Famine Relief Trust, was distributed

among the poorer agriculturists. The Brahmans of the Saraneshwar temple also assisted many with doles of cooked food at the poor-house maintained by them. The highest prices recorded during this visitation were:—Wheat 9½ *Jwar* 10, Maize 11, and barley 11½ seers per rupee.

#### Scarcity of 1906-07

In February 1907 a severe hailstorm did much damage to crops in some parts of the State. The fall at Sirohi and its surrounding villages was terrible, the like of which had not been witnessed before. The crop in the fields that escaped the hailstorms was later damaged by blight. The heavy downpour at the beginning of the monsoon set the cultivators at work in right earnest but later on, the rains failed completely resulting in a state of scarcity. The spontaneous growth of some kind of jungle grains locally known as *Kuri* and *Sanza* helped the poor to sustain themselves.

#### Scarcity of 1914-15

The monsoon was a complete failure. No grass could grow and the autumn crops were not sown at all. However, a scattered rainfall in the last months of the year, improved the conditions.

#### Scarcity of 1935-36

The monsoon failed and no *kharif* crop was sown except in the south-eastern tahsils of the State where its out-turn was evaluated at 2 to 4 annas in a rupee. Grass and fodder were also insufficient and the cultivators were advised to grow more lucerne and other fodder crops to supplement the fodder supply. *Taccavi* loans were also advanced, some new wells were sunk and a large number of old wells repaired. The professional grazers took their cattle towards Malwa.

Rains were scarce for three consecutive years from 1936 to 1939 during the reign of Sir Sarup Ram Singh.

The following relief measures were taken by the State.

Work for 15,000 labourers.	Rs. 4,00,000
Assistance for sinking the well.	Rs. 1,00,000
Poor Relief Funds.	Rs. 50,000
Taccavi.	Rs. 1,00,000
Importation of grass.	Rs. 1,00,000
	<hr/>
	Rs. 7,50,000



All *khalsa* jungles and fodder reserves were thrown open for free grazing. The export of grass was prohibited. In spite of these measures, a large number of cattle perished due to starvation.

#### Scarcity of 1948-49

The food-grain position in 1948 and 1949 was critical and scarcity conditions prevailed throughout the State. Huge stocks of grain were imported. In 1949, 4,00,000 maunds of grain was imported and distributed through ration shops.

#### Scarcity of 1951

In the year 1951 the monsoon was irregular though the amount of rainfall was not very meagre. However, the rains failed after the first half of August, and scarcity conditions prevailed.

The tenants were given suspension in *Hansil* (rent) as under:—

1. Tahsil Sirohi	5 annas in a rupee
2. Tahsil Pindwara	4 annas in a rupee
3. Tahsil Sheoganj	4 annas in a rupee
4. Tahsil Reodar	3 annas in a rupee

The total amount of suspension was Rs. 26,40,415. A major part of it was recovered during the next year. The following protective measures were adopted:—

1. Excavation of small tanks in the villages;
2. Construction and repairs of roads (Anadra metalled road was taken in hand during that time);
3. As regards fodder, grass was imported and sold to the people at reasonable rates;
4. The cheap grain shops were opened in the area where they were required; in Bhil area of Bhula, where labour was engaged in road, the supply department arranged distribution of grain on payment days;

5. Bhils and G'rasia were allowed to bring timber from the jungle without paying forest duty;
6. For the cattle of this district which migrated to the adjoining area of Saurashtra, Land Revenue Inspector was sent there to give cattle owners reasonable *Taccavis* and loan to feed their cattle.

Due to untimely rains, crop partially failed in tahsil Pindwara and therefore, relief works continued till the end of July, 1952. *Khalza* villages of tahsils Sirohi and Sheoganj numbering 20 and 28 respectively, were affected by scarcity conditions caused due to locust invasions and meagre rains. Digging of tanks was taken up in order to give relief to the people by engaging them as labourers.

#### Scarcity of 1957-58

79 villages of tahsil Sirohi, 51 villages of Sheoganj tahsil and 8 villages of Pindwara were affected by scarcity conditions due to meagre rainfall. *Kharif* rent recovery was suspended from the cultivators and a sum of Rs. 5,000 as *taccavi* loan was advanced.

#### Floods

In years of unusually heavy rainfall the rivers and mountain streams come down in considerable volume, and inundate all low-lying lands in the vicinity. In 1875 it rained in incessant torrents on Abu for a week, and the floods, which were unprecedented, carried away many Persian wheels they came across and caused much damage to the *kharif* crops; a somewhat similar calamity occurred in September 1893, but was less destructive.

The heavy rains that started on the 12th August, 1941 and continued unabated till 14th, were unprecedented in the history of Sirohi. 24 inches of rain fell within 48 hours, causing rivers and *nullahs* to overflow resulting in great damage of life and property. Seven men in Sheoganj tahsil and three in Abu Road tahsil died and 2,116 cattle were drowned in the floods and about 3,640 houses and 264 wells were either washed away or damaged. The total loss of property is estimated at rupees one lakh. The damage to house property was mainly in Abu Road and Sirohi towns. Damage to wells was caused in Sheoganj.

A sum of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned by the State for immediate relief measures. The public of Sirohi, Sheoganj, Abu Road and Pindwara and the State servants also contributed generously to the extent of Rs. 11,113. The poor and destitute were fed for several days at the State expenses, relief works were opened by the P.W.D., concessions were granted to help reconstruction of collapsed houses, gratuitous help and loans were advanced to the sufferers for reconstructing wells and houses.

## CHAPTER V

### INDUSTRIES

#### Old Time Industries

The former Sirohi State was noted for the make and temper of its sword-blades. Tod has observed that they were as famed among the Rajputs as those of Damascus among the Persians and Turks. The work of inlaying with gold and silver on iron was also noticeable. In the Gazetteer of 1909, Erskine has mentioned that this work secured medals at various exhibitions. Both these crafts, viz., sword-blade manufacture and inlaying work, were carried on at the capital. Daggers, spears, knives and bows were also made in Sirohi town. Elsewhere the only industries worthy of note were weaving of coarse cotton cloth in a few villages and dyeing and printing of cotton fabrics at Abu Road, Sheoganj and some other places. A tannery and an ice-factory both at Abu Road, were also working in the first decade of this century; the ice was of rather inferior quality. Lime was manufactured at Mandwa near Sirohi, at Morthala and Akra near Abu Road and Selwara near Anadra. This position had hardly improved when the State merged into Rajasthan. Administration reports of the State for some years immediately preceding the merger make no mention of industries. However, income from excise duty figures in some reports which was derived from the only distillery in the State.

Of the old time industries, the manufacture of swords and blades had declined considerably owing to the fall in their demand, for who now carries the sword as a personal weapon and how many would care to purchase ornamental swords for decoration purposes. The indigenous printing and dyeing industry also declined due to competition from mill made cloth and many printers and dyers migrated to Ahmedabad to find jobs in the textile mills.

With the revival of interest in cottage industries generally throughout the country, efforts are being made to revitalize them in the district also, mainly through government depart-

ments and some organizations set-up for their promotion and revival. Sword and knife makers are given technical guidance and servicing facilities by the Common Facility Centre situated at the district headquarters. The All India Handloom Board gives grants-in-aid and subsidies to the weavers through the Co-operative Department for the purchase of improved looms and accessories. Working capital loan is also provided for the purchase of yarn and other raw materials. Similarly, the Khadi Gramodyog Board gives subsidies through the Co-operative Department to potters for the purchase of improved wheels, etc. as also loans for the purchase of raw materials. Direct help from the government mostly takes the shape of training, servicing facilities and loans. Shoe-making industry is also receiving similar aid.

Further details of activities for the revival of old industries and starting of new ones like *Neera* and *Palm Gur* are given later in this chapter under the heading 'State Assistance to Industries.'

The lack of industrialization can be explained partly due to the district being not very rich in power and raw materials to be able to support a diversified programme of manufacture. But the absence of even such industries as could have been established with the available resources, shows that official apathy also must have been a factor in the industrial backwardness of the area. Hides, cotton and wool were exported to Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Delhi in large quantities. Surely some medium size plants could have been established to process them within the State.

Though details about industrial potential are mentioned later in this chapter, it must be pointed out here that the district offers scope for the establishment of cotton and wool ginning presses besides medium size factories for paper, straw board, cement and tomato sauce. Marble quarrying can also be a profitable proposition. Among cottage industries, impetus can be given to bamboo and leather products, oil pressing, *tar-gur*, bee-keeping etc.

### **Power**

There is no hydro-electric power in the district. Thermal power is available at four places, viz. Sirohi, Sheoganj, Abu Road and Mount Abu.

*Power House, Sirohi.*—The power station at Sirohi was installed by the State as early as 1935. In 1948, it was sold to M/s Abu Road Electricity and Industries Co. Ltd., which had offices at Sirohi and Abu Road. On 2nd July, 1958 the power house was taken over from the company by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board. This power station has an installed capacity of 229 kw. The total number of connections given by it are 855, out of which 728 are for domestic purposes, 26 for industrial purposes, one for municipal road lights and 100 are temporarily disconnected. The rates charged are 0.50 nP. per unit for domestic, 0.25 nP. for industrial and 0.19 nP. for municipal connections. The working hours of the power house till the 6th August, 1961 were from 4.30 a. m. to 12 midnight. Since August, 1961 it is providing a 24 hour service.

The following table shows the number of units generated and sold by the power house during the years 1959-60 and 1960-61:—

Year	Number of units generated	Number of units sold
1959-60	2,31,815	1,81,352
1960-61	2,68,428	2,02,052

*Sumerpur Power House.*—This is situated in Pali district but also supplies electricity to Sheoganj town of Sirohi district which is only at a distance of about two miles. The power station was installed by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board on 26th January, 1960 with an installed capacity of 312 kw. The total number of connections given by it in Sheoganj town are 251, out of which 225 are for domestic, 25 for industrial and one for road lights. The rates charged respectively are 0.50 nP., 0.25 nP. and 0.35 nP. per unit. The Power House provides 24 hour service. Figures about generation and sale of electricity will be found in the Pali District Gazetteer.

*Power House, Abu Road.*—The power house is owned by M/s Abu Road Electricity and Industries Co. Ltd., Abu Road, and was installed in 1945 with a total capacity of

57 kw. The Power House has provided 796 connections, out of which 770 are for domestic use, 25 for industrial purposes and one for road lights. Domestic connections are charged at the rate of 0.50 nP. and industrial @0.27 nP. The power house provides 24 hour service.

The number of units sold and generated by the power house during the last two years is shown in the table below:—

Year	Units	
	Generated	Sold
1959-60	9,84,401	7,79,514
1960-61	10,81,131	8,80,185

*Power House, Mt. Abu.*—The power house is owned by M/s Abu Electric Supply Co., and was established in 1939 with an installed capacity of 401 kw. The total number of connections provided by the Power House are 563, out of which 13 are to industrial units and the rest for domestic and commercial purposes. The power house provides all the twenty-four hours service. The rates per unit are 62 nP. from domestic and 25 nP. (31 nP. during restricted hours) from industrial users.

The working results of the power house in terms of units generated and sold during 1959-60 and 1960-61 are shown in the following table:—

Year	Units	
	Generated	Sold
1959-60	3,98,984	3,41,832
1960-61	4,54,768	4,12,777

#### Mining

During 1926-28 the Assistant Superintendent of Geological Survey of India, toured the then Sirohi State and it was found that the total mineral wealth consisted of Limestone, Marble, Calcite, Soapstone, Asbestos, Quartz and Felspar,

Beryl etc. Limestone deposits near Kiverli and Banas have been prospected in detail by the A. C. C. and the deposit is considered sufficient to feed a Cement Factory near Banas.

Morthala Limestone has been worked for marble and the Bombay Secretariat building consumed the same.

White Calcite of good quality is being worked near village Morries about 10 miles from Pindwara. Siawa is another wellknown source of Calcite.

Currently Serwa marble quarries are being tested for the manufacture of white cement.

The Western Rajputana Agency & Bikaner Residency Gazetteer by K. D. Erskine (Allahabad, 1909 p. 265) has recorded the findings of large quantities of mica near Dildar.

#### Small Industries

Under this head can be grouped the following units:—

(i) *Marble Factory at Abu Road.*—The factory is owned by M/s D. K. Trivedi & Sons. and was established during 1955 with a capital investment of about Re. one lakh. It is operated by electric power received from the Abu Road power house. White and light green marble is obtained from quarries in Gujarat. Black marble is obtained from quarries near Abu Road. The factory turns marble stone into slabs which have a good market in Ahmedabad. Marble slabs are normally sold @Rs. 5/- per sq. foot. The factory employs about 30 labourers, who are paid @ Rs. 1.50 per day. The factory is registered under the Factories Act. In March, 1960 it received a loan of Rs. 10,000/- from the Industries Department.

(ii) *Sodium Silicate Factory, Abu Road.*—The factory was established during 1959 but commenced production only in February, 1961. The capital investment so far, has been of Rs. 1,25,000. The factory has a maximum production capacity of 5 tons daily but the present output is only 3 to 4 tons of Sodium Silicate. It is electrically operated and power is received from the Abu Road power house. It has three motors of 2 h. p. each. The raw materials used by the factory are Soda Ash and Slice sand which are obtained



from Gujarat. The finished product is exported to Gujarat and is also consumed in Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions of Rajasthan. The factory employs 9 unskilled labourers and one technician. Wages of unskilled labourers range between Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.75 and the technician is paid Rs. 300 per month. The factory runs for 24 hours in three shifts and each shift engages 3 workers. The factory received a loan of Rs. 5,000 from the Industries Department two years ago.

(iii) *Kiron Industries, Abu Road.*—The industry was established in early 1960 with a capital investment of Rs. 20,000. It is owned by M/s Purshottam Contractor, and manufactures pins, wire and nails. It is electrically operated and power is received from the local power house. Its chief raw material, steel wire, is imported from Ahmedabad and Bombay. It employs 4 to 5 workers, who are paid @ Rs. 1.50 per day.

(iv) *Plastic Factories.*—There are three plastic factories in the district which were established recently. One is at Abu Road and the other two are at Sheoganj. One of the factories at Sheoganj is run on co-operative lines. These factories are operated by the locally available electric power and manufacture mainly bangles and buttons. One plastic factory at Sheoganj also makes ivory bangles.

(v) *Oil Mills.*—There are seven oil mills in the district, two at Abu Road, two at Sheoganj, two at Swaroopganj and one at Pindwara. Oil mills at Sheoganj are combined oil, flour and ginning factories and work according to season. Commodities pressed are sesamum and groundnut; 13 to 18 seers of oil is extracted out of one maund of the commodity. On an average each oil mill employs two unskilled workers and a technician. Power is derived from oil engines.

(vi) *Saw Mills.*—There are six saw mills in the district, two at Sirohi, two at Swaroopganj and one each at Jawal and Sheoganj. Saw mills at Sirohi are operated by electric power, and the others, by oil engines.

(vii) *Others.*—Among other units operated by power can be included three ice-candy units, two at Abu Road and one at Sheoganj; one ice factory at Mt. Abu and one power loom at Kokrada in tahsil Sirohi.

**Cottage Industries**

(a) *Handloom Industry*.—This industry is mainly concentrated at Sirohi, Sheoganj, Pindwara and Mandar in Reodar tahsil. It is carried on as a subsidiary means of livelihood in addition to agriculture. About 500 persons, mostly Meghwals (a Scheduled Caste) are engaged in it. Mill-made yarn of Pali and Beawar mills is used, out of which *pachhewda* (a short cloth) *khesda* (a covering cloth) etc., are prepared. The earnings of a worker in this industry vary from 75 nP. to Re. 1/- per day. The number of yarn spinners in the district at the time of the 1951 Census was 1,016.

*Dyeing & Printing*.—About 35 families of Muslim *Chhipas*, all located at Sheoganj, do the work of dyeing and printing. A few families of Hindu dyers at Kalandri, Jawal and Barlut, who are locally called *Bandharas* are also engaged in this industry. The mill-made cloth and chemical dyes purchased from the local market on retail price, are used for printing purposes. According to 1951 Census there were 126 dyers and printers in the district. According to 1961 Census, however, 133 persons (77 males and 56 females) were working as cotton dyers and bleachers, while another 19 persons (18 males and 1 female) were classified as printers of cotton textiles.

*Leather Tanning & Shoe-making*.—Meghwals and Jalias, who are spread all over the district tan the locally available hides and skins. Some hides and skins are also imported from Mewar. *Anwal* bark, which is found in abundance in the district is used for tanning. This *anwal* bark is also exported to Madras and Kanpur. Tanned hides and skins are used locally for making shoes and are also exported to Agra and Kanpur.

Shoes are made by Hindu *mochies* mainly at Abu Road and Sirohi. Apart from the indigenous variety, shoes of Western type are also prepared by some *mochies*. Along with the locally tanned hides and skins, better varieties of leather, imported from Agra and Kanpur are also used. Shoe-makers numbered 905 at the time of 1951 Census.

A total of 1,653 persons were shown working in tanning, shoe-making, and allied processes at the time of 1961 Census.

Their distribution in the various process was as follows :—

Process	Males	Females
Currying, tanning and finishing of hides and skins and preparation of finished leather .. .. .	89	26
Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear .. .. .	1,363	102
Repair of shoes and other leather footwear .. .. .	73	

**Pottery.**—This industry is spread all over the district. Potters are locally known as *Kumhars*, who make out of the locally available clay certain varieties of pots. There is one organized cooperative society of potters at Abu Road, which makes *Surahis* of beautiful designs. Pottery was the occupation of 933 persons in the district at the time of 1951 Census. The number, however, fell to 740 (569 males and 171 females) at the 1961 Census.

**Bee-keeping.**—This is a recently developed cottage industry of the district, which is solely concentrated in Abu Road tahsil. In 1953 a bee-keeping centre was established at Mt. Abu by the Khadi and Village Industries Board. It is a training-cum-production centre. There are six field-men at the centre, who hold demonstrations. At present 85 families in 15 villages are doing bee-keeping work; 275 bee-hive boxes have been distributed by the centre so far. One bee-hive box costs Rs. 21.50 nP., but it is sold at a subsidized rate of Rs. 11.50 nP. One bee-hive collects on an average, about 25 lbs. of honey annually, which sells @ Rs. 3/- per lb. Thus one bee-hive gives an earning of Rs. 75/- per annum. Generally one family has three to four bee-hives and the earnings vary from Rs. 225/- to Rs. 300/- per annum. The season for this industry is from March to May and during October and November. During off-season bees are given artificial feeding but that is not very remunerative.

**Neera & Tar-Gur Products Industry.**—This industry has also developed very recently and is yet concentrated at Mt. Abu only. Palm trees grow in large numbers at Mount Abu, out of which a juice called *neera* is extracted. There is one co-operative society registered in 1957 under the name 'The Mount Abu Tar-Gur Utpadak Sahkari Samiti Ltd.,' which manufactures *Tar-Gur*. The Society has a

membership of 33 persons and employs on a permanent basis, 4 tappers, 3 carriers 3 salesmen and one Manager. Tappers are paid between Rs. 60/- to Rs. 110/-, carriers Rs. 60/-, salesmen between Rs. 60-70 and Manager Rs. 100/- per month. The industry is a seasonal one and works only during October and November and from April to June. The main product of the industry is *neera* juice, which is a very tasty drink. *Neera* is sold @ 12 nP. per glass which contains 8 oz. of liquid. During May 1961 alone, the Society sold *Neera* worth Rs. 4,500/- for which the Khadi and Village Industries Board rewarded a cooler set to the Society. *Tar-Gur* is produced on a small scale as the demand for it is less. During 1960-61 its production had been only about 50 mds. *Tar-Gur* is sold @ 12 nP. per seer.

In May, 1961 a *Tar-Gur* pilot station was also established at Mount Abu. The objects of the pilot station are to hold demonstrations and mass production of *Tar-Gur* after the rains of 1961. The 12th conference of All India *Tar-Gur* Workers was also held in May, 1961 at Mt. Abu. Ways and means of increasing *Tar-Gur* production and making it more popular were discussed at the conference.

#### Industrial Potential

There is possibility of starting ginning presses, small wool factory, lime and cement works and paper factory. The areas round about Sheoganj town in tahsil Sheoganj produce cotton, which is sufficient in quantity for starting a ginning press. Now cotton has begun to be grown in other parts also and starting of a small textile mill can perhaps be undertaken. After opening a ginning press, impetus can be given to local weavers of that area in cottage industries. Sheep are kept in large numbers by *Rebaris* in this district but a large quantity of wool is exported outside the district. If a wool factory is not possible at least cleaning and grading of wool can be undertaken in this district. Due to the presence of sufficient quantity of bamboo, the potential for starting a small unit of paper factory appears to exist. In areas near Mandawa, Akra, Kiverli and Selwara, limestone is available in good quantity and this can be used for the production of cement.

The following are some of the cottage industries which are likely to succeed in this district:—

(a) *Bamboo Industry*.—Bamboo can be used for making mats, baskets, toys etc. This industry can be started on

a small scale but can be spread over to many places in the district as bamboo is available in scattered areas. Large quantities of bamboo are exported from this district every year and if efforts are made to utilize it within the district itself, it will be a good source of employment.

(b) *Leather Industry*.—Sirohi, Sheoganj and Kalandri are three important places where shoes are manufactured. The *mochies* (shoe-makers) mostly depend on local material. They can be encouraged to produce suitcases, hand-bags etc. which can be exported to the neighbouring areas.

(c) *Oil Industry*.—Oil seeds are one of the major agricultural products of the district, which can feed many oil industries if started on medium and small scale basis. On the other hand, the number of persons engaged in oil crushing is considerable. Hence there is vast scope for organising oil pressing co-operative societies in the district.

(d) *Bee-keeping*.—There is already a bee-keeping centre at Mount Abu but it is insufficient to meet the growing demand for pure honey. This can be developed further and tried at other places also.

(e) *Tar-Gur*.—This industry is already running successfully at Mount Abu. One society is working there which has been aided by Khadi & Gram-Udyog Board. The abundance of palm trees in the district provides ample scope for the further development of this industry.

The raw materials required are sugar phosphate (required in small quantity), which can be imported, and the palm trees extract. The full palm tree crop is not utilised by the present dimensions of the industry. The demand for *Neera* and the *Gur*, which is manufactured, is so great that nothing remains for export and even the local demand cannot be met fully in the summer season at the Mount. The question of power in this industry does not arise. A sugar machine costing about Rs. 500/- is the main machinery required.

Besides *Neera* and palm *Gur*, the palm leaves can also be used by the same industry for making subsidiary products like bags, hats, etc.

(f) *Straw Board Industry*.—The raw materials required for this industry are found in abundance specially in Abu Road tahsil. These are—

1. Bamboos      2. Sugarcane Bagasse      3. Waste Paper
4. Straw of Rice, Wheat & Maize etc.

Except sugarcane bagasse, all other raw materials are available in this tahsil.

The following kinds of grass can also be used: *Roje, Bhangri, Jigna, Basu, Lopra, Genda, Rikdia, Kharkuti* and *Sabai*; many out of these kinds are available here. There is a power house at Abu Road and water from the western Banas river can be made available.

At present there is a growing demand for the product because card-board is imported from abroad and if an industry is started, it will be one of the important ones in Rajasthan.

(g) *Tomato Sauce*.—This industry has a good scope in Sirohi, Sheoganj and Reodar tahsils where tomatoes are grown in large quantities. This can well be started on a co-operative basis.

(h) *Paper Industry*.—The production of bamboos and other grasses, which can also be used for this purpose, is quite sufficient to feed a small scale paper mill.

#### State Assistance to Industries

No significant assistance was rendered to the industries in the erstwhile Sirohi State nor were there any State-owned or State-managed enterprises except a power station at Sirohi, which has already been referred to earlier in this chapter. After the merger also no institution of the type of industrial bank etc. has so far been established in the district to render financial assistance to the industries. However, besides technical assistance, loans have been advanced from time to time to various industries by the Industries Department of the Government of Rajasthan and the Khadi & Village Industries Board. During the Second Five Year Plan total departmental loans to industrial co-operative societies amounted to Rs. 74,600 and Rs. 36,400 to individual industries. The following aid was given to the Intensive Industrial Project which

controls 47 industrial co-operative societies with a total membership of 902:—

<i>Source of aid</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
(i) Khadi & Gramodyog Board	2,08,410
(ii) Industries and Supplies Deptt.	33,700
(iii) Panchayat Samitis	13,500
(iv) Hath Kargha Board	18,596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,74,206</b>

Another sphere in which the State has been active relates to training of village craftsmen in better techniques of production and centres have been established which serve the dual purpose of production and training in such village industries as carpentry, tailoring, dyeing, printing, weaving, shoe-making etc. Upon the introduction of the scheme of democratic decentralization the training-cum-production centres were transferred to the Panchayat Samitis.

An emporium is being run at Mt. Abu for the sale and popularization of the handicrafts of the district.

### **Labour Welfare**

There is no labour welfare centre in the district nor are there any labour laws in operation except the Factories Act which applies to only four units namely, M/s D. K. Trivedi & Sons, at Abu Road, M/s Hazari Bhai Saw Mills, Sirohi, Abu Road Electric Supply Company & Industries Ltd., and Kangtani Miya Chand Saw Mills, Sirohi.

### **Trade Union**

At the end of the Second Five Year Plan, there was only one registered trade union in the district. The Municipal Employees Union, Mount Abu. It was, registered in 1959 and had 65 members (49 male and 16 female) on its roll on 31st March, 1961.

## CHAPTER VI

### BANKING, TRADE & COMMERCE

#### History of Indigenous Banking

The indigenous banker is an old economic institution of the rural India. He is the village money-lender, who lends money to the cultivators and artisans at the time of necessity with or without security. He also accepts deposits from them. Apart from these two important banking functions, he often acts as the village *arhtiya* (broker) who either purchases the produce of the cultivators in the village and sells it in the *mandi*, or helps negotiate a deal between the cultivator and the trader. Indigenous bankers of repute also deal with *Hundis* and promissory notes.

Indigenous banking in the true sense of the term had never been in vogue in this district. The local *Mahajans*, who were called *Bohras*, did the business of money-lending and as such were more or less, merely money lenders. They were grocers or cloth merchants or sometimes both. The main practice was to advance loan in kind. The cultivator purchased all his requirements on credit from the *Bohra*. Money in cash was seldom advanced. The loan was advanced in kind and was also repaid in kind alongwith the interest. The usual practice was to advance the food-grains in times of distress and need. It was measured with a measuring pot called *Kalsi*. One and a half or two and sometimes even 3 *Kalsis* of grain for one *Kalsi* were realised at the time of harvest. If the loanee was not able to repay the loan after a year, interest was calculated also on the interest accrued for the subsequent period. This system of calculating compound interest was called *Varsh Phirani*. Usually, once a cultivator had borrowed from the *Bohra*, he was never able to repay the loan. And the system of calculating compound interest further worsened his condition and he was never able to escape from the clutches of the *Bohra*. The amount of loan went on increasing with the addition of the amount of interest every year and sometimes even passed on to the heirs of the deceased loanee. But the poor cultivator being illiterate and short of finances for litigation,



seldom complained of his miserable lot to the State authorities. Nor did the *Bohra* file any suit for default in the repayment of his sum. He did not do so for the fear of losing his customer for ever and also there was every possibility of State intervention to regulate his malpractices. It was probably for these reasons that the State never enacted laws to regulate the malpractices of the *Bohras*. The Agriculturists Loan Act was of course, enacted in 1946 but it did not provide for any checks on the money lending business. It merely provided for the distribution of food-grains through tahsils at cheap rate of interest.

The system of *Hundis* was also prevalent. Some businessmen had shifted to big cities like Ahmedabad, Bombay and Calcutta and had flourishing business there. These businessmen accepted the *Hundis* issued by the businessmen of their home town or by others, in whom they had confidence. In fact, the acceptance of *Hundis* was a matter of mutual confidence.

#### General Credit facilities

A vast majority of the population of this district is dependent on agriculture and allied industries. So the need for finance for various agricultural operations is quite obvious. The agriculturists are financed mainly by the village money-lender, the indigenous banker, also known as village *Bohras* but now the most important development in the financial organisation of the district during the recent years, has been the gradual replacement of the old agencies of credit supply by new ones. Co-operative credit societies are gradually replacing the money-lenders. This movement is constantly encouraged and supervised by the State Government. In the urban area banking and credit facilities are offered by the banks. Co-operative credit societies have been entering the field in larger numbers during the last few years.

#### Indebtedness

Indebtedness among the rural population is mainly due to unbalanced economy of the poor cultivator. In this district the unbalanced economy of the rural masses is due to the failure of crops at least once in 5 years and non-receipt of fair price for the produce. Money is generally borrowed during the period of distress, when the crops fail. Sometimes heavy expenses on social ceremonies also necessitate the borrowing of money. Such loans are unproductive and their repayment becomes very

difficult for the borrower. Loans are also taken for productive purposes like purchase of seed, sinking of wells, purchase of bullocks and other agricultural implements. The share of productive loans in the total indebtedness is, however very small.

No rural credit survey of the district as a whole, has been undertaken by any agency so far. Recently the Directorate of Economic and Industrial Surveys of the Government of Rajasthan conducted a survey to assess the tribal indebtedness in the district. *Girasias* and *Blils* are two main tribes who are concentrated in tahsils Pindwara and Abu Road. These tribes form about 62.58 per cent of the total population of these two tahsils and their primary occupation is agriculture. Hence what is true of these tribal people can, more or less, also be taken to be true as regards other agricultural population of the district. The findings of the survey are noted below :—

- (i) 62.27 per cent of the tribal population in this area is indebted. Per capita indebtedness is Rs. 61.21. The total indebtedness of the tribal population comes to Rs. 24.10 lakhs.
- (ii) The average monthly income of tribal family is Rs. 71.49 and the average monthly income of an indebted tribal family is Rs. 73.8.
- (iii) The main source of loan is the money-lender. 73.04 per cent of the outstanding loans is provided by money-lenders, while co-operatives provide only 1.21 per cent and government, through Blocks, 16.20 per cent of the total loans.
- (iv) 69.82 per cent of the loan has been for unproductive purposes.

In the absence of any credit survey, the extent of urban-indebtedness can not be assessed. Persons of small means in urban areas have to borrow to fill up the gap during the period of financial stringency, when they have to incur heavy expenditure on social ceremonies. The district is not well developed in respect of industries. Therefore, individuals do not generally borrow for investing in trade and industries. However, there are various industrial co-operative societies, which borrow money from co-operative banks and other agencies.

### Role of the Money-lenders

As noted earlier, the bulk of finance required by the agriculturists in the district is supplied by the money-lenders. The principal castes engaged in the profession of money-lending are Agrawal and Maheshwari *Banias*, Jains, Brahmins and Rajputs. As already observed, loans are mostly given for unproductive purposes. The old money-lending practice still continues but with the growth of co-operatives, the rate of interest charged, has been reduced to some extent. The rate of interest now generally charged by the money-lenders is 12 per cent per annum. Another difference has been that now loans are also advanced in cash.

### Legislative Remedies

The Rajasthan Relief of Agricultural Indebtedness Act (Rajasthan Act No. 28 of 1957) was passed in 1957. Under the provisions of the Act, Debt Relief Courts were to be established, their extent of jurisdiction to be fixed by the Government from time to time. The judges of the Debt Relief Courts were to be Munsifs or Civil Judges, or persons who had practised as an advocate for not less than five years. Under the provisions of the Act, a person can submit an application to the court on a prescribed form. The court will determine the capacity of the loanee to repay and accordingly fix the instalments by which the loan was to be repaid.

In pursuance of section 3 of the Act, the State Government directed the following Civil Courts to act as Debt Relief Courts also in the Sirohi district—

(i) Senior Civil Judge, Sirohi for the whole district, his pecuniary jurisdiction being cases of debts amounting to more than Rs. 5,000.

(ii) Munsif, Sirohi for the Sirohi Sub-Division, his pecuniary jurisdiction being cases of debts amounting upto Rs. 5,000.

(iii) Munsif, Abu Road for the Mount Abu Sub-Division, his pecuniary jurisdiction being cases of debts amounting upto Rs. 5,000.

These Courts were established from 15th May, 1958.

**Joint Stock Banks**

The Punjab National Bank was the first to establish its branches in the Sirohi district. The branch at Abu Road was established in November, 1946. Two more branches at Sirohi and Sheoganj were opened in February and November, 1947 respectively. The branch at Abu Road provides lockers and safe-custody facilities. Details of the business transactions of these banks are not available.

The State Bank of India opened its branch at Abu Road during early 1958 and a branch of the State Bank of Bikaner was also opened at Sirohi in January, 1960. As a matter of fact, there is very little of commercial business in the district but whatever it is, the bulk of it is conducted with the Punjab National Bank. The Government treasury business at Sirohi is with the State Bank of Bikaner, while at Sheoganj, it is with the Punjab National Bank.

**Facilities for co-op. rative credit**

The co-operative movement was started in Sirohi district in the year 1953 and the first society was registered on the 5th May, 1953. Since then Societies of various kinds have been registered and the position as on 31st March, 1961 is as under:—

S.No.	Kind of Society	No. of Societies	Member-ship.
1.	Central Co-operative Bank	1	138
2.	Central Non-credit Societies	3	125
3.	Agricultural Credit Societies	118	4583
4.	Agricultural Non-credit Societies	26	533
5.	Primary Land Mortgage Bank	1	139
6.	Non-agricultural Credit Societies	2	170
7.	Non-agricultural Non-credit Societies	83	2249
8.	Societies under liquidation	3	68

The position of the Primary Non-agricultural (Non-credit) Societies was as follows:—

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Kind of Society</u>	<u>No. of Societies</u>	<u>Member-ship</u>
1.	Weavers	13	307
2.	Calico Printing	1	17
3.	<i>Tel Ghani</i>	3	46
4.	Palm Gur	2	54
5.	Leather Work	7	92
6.	Black-Smiths	2	26
7.	Village Pottery	2	29
8.	Non-edible Oil & Soaps	2	29
9.	Labour Contract	8	121
10.	Forest Labourers	1	358
11.	Others (including industrial)	36	585
12.	Consumers Stores	6	922
13.	Housing	1	71
		234	8920

Loans outstanding as on 31-3-1961 are enumerated below:—

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Loan</u>
1.	Central Co-operative Bank	208687/-
2.	Industries Department	65054/-
3.	Khadi Board	25148/-
4.	Development Department	36620/-
5.	Other Departments	39750/-

TOTAL .. 3,75,302/-

The total paid up share capital of the Co-operative Credit Societies of the district on that date, was Rs. 3,70,000 and their working capital was Rs. 7,84,960.

The maximum credit limit of the Societies were fixed by the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

The office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sirohi was established here on 15th May, 1957 and since then the movement is being looked after as a separate unit for the district.

#### Central Co-operative Bank, Sirohi

This Bank was established on 20th March, 1958 and now has a total membership of 111. The authorised capital of the Bank is Rs. 10 lakhs and the paid up share capital is Rs. 1,05,500, out of which Government's contribution is Rs. 50,000, and the contribution of the individuals and co-operative societies is Rs. 5,200, and Rs. 50,300 respectively. The Bank charges interest at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum on agricultural loans. The rate of interest of non-agricultural loans varies from 6 to 7½ per cent.

The Bank is controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of 13 members of which Collector is the *ex-officio* Chairman, six members on the Board are elected representatives of the co-operative societies, 3 represent the individual members and 3 are the nominees of the Government.

The extent of loans advanced by the Bank to the agricultural & non-agricultural co-operative societies is indicated below:—

Year	Agricultural Co-operative Societies	Non-agricultural Co-operative Societies
1958-59	Rs. 30,890	..
1959-60	Rs. 94,730	Rs. 1,510
1960-61	Rs. 2,05,186	Rs. 1,990

## General and Life Insurance

**General Insurance.**—The main business transacted by the general insurance companies in the district, is the insurance of motor vehicles. There is no scope for other types of general insurance business in the district. No branch office of any general insurance company exists in the district. Business for them is, however, transacted by a number of agents on behalf of the various general insurance companies.

**Life Insurance.**—A branch office of the Life Insurance Corporation was established at Sirohi on 29th October, 1959. The branch office covers Sirohi as well as Jalore districts. There are 116 agents supervised by 5 field officers of the Corporation, who transact life insurance business in the district. Although the quota fixed by the Company for Sirohi district for the year 1960 was Rs. 37,50,000, the actual business transacted exceeded this target considerably. Business secured amounted to Rs. 81,85,250. The figures of annual premium collection for the last two years are as follows\* :—

Period	First year pre- mium collections.	Renewal pre- mium collections.
	Rs.	Rs.
1-9-60 to 31-12-60	1,91,695.02	70,613.40
1-1-61 to 31-12-61	5,50,283.38	4,44,221.59

The Life Insurance Corporation gives various types of loans to its employees on interest as well as without interest. To the policy-holders it gives loans upto the extent of ninety per cent of the surrender value of the policy with interest at the rate of six per cent per annum payable half-yearly.

**State Insurance.**—In the district of Sirohi, the State Insurance Scheme was introduced on 1st April, 1954. The scheme was implemented in the district as per Rajasthan Government Servants Insurance Rules, 1953 as amended from time to time. The total number of employees covered by this scheme in 1960-61 was 2657.

\*These figures also include the premium income in respect of the Jalore district.

The total annual premium collection figures of State Insurance in the Sirohi district are as follows:—

Years	Collection (Rs.)
1954-55	18,113.00
1955-56	42,686.15
1956-57	58,267.14
1957-58	75,989.87
1958-59	80,572.94
1959-60	96,626.05
1960-61	1,42,446.78

*National Savings.*—The Sirohi State had launched the National Savings Scheme in its territory much before the merger of the State with Rajasthan. One District Organizer has been posted since the inception of the scheme after independence who looks after the progress of small savings scheme. The district was awarded the State shield for best all-round efforts in small savings during 1960-61. The following are the figures of net collections (the net amount, that remains after deducting withdrawals from total collections) under various schemes during the last five years:—

Year	Collection (Rs.)
1956-57	1,25,000
1957-58	3,00,000
1958-59	1,50,000
1959-60	(—)10,500*
1960-61	2,54,700

\* Withdrawals were higher than collections made during the year.



The schemewise collection during the last two years of the Second Plan for which separate figures are available is as follows:—

	1959-60	1960-61
12-year National Plan Savings Certificates .. ..	(—)10,100*	85,500
Post Office Savings Bank ..	(—)20,600*	1,44,200
Cumulative Time Deposits ..	7,200	18,000
10-year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates .. ..	13,000	7,000
15-year Annuity Certificates ..		
TOTAL ..	(—)10,500*	2,54,700

#### Currency and Coinage

Sirohi has never had a mint of its own. The coins current here were: (i) *Kaldar* or British, (ii) *Dabhu Shahi* copper piece, and (iii) *Bhilari* Rupees. The *Dabhu Shahi* coins came from Jodhpur, and were the same as the *Bijai Shahi*; they were called *Dabhu* from their great weight. The *Bhilari* rupees took their name from the town of Bhilwara where they were minted during the 18th century. Formerly, they were of the same value as the British coins, but they gradually depreciated till one *Bhilari* rupee exchanged for 14 Imperial annas in 1900 and for 13 from 1901 to 1903. The fall in the exchange value was due to a greater demand of *Kaldar* rupees. In these circumstances, the Darbar resolved to convert the *Bhilari* rupees and introduce Imperial currency instead. The Government of India agreed to give, upto a limit of fifteen lakhs, 100 Imperial in exchange for 120 *Bhilari* rupees. The number of rupees tendered for conversion during the first 6 months was 989, 886, and these were duly received at the Bombay mint, the cost (to the Darbar) of the operations, including establishment, packing, transit charges, etc. was Rs. 4766-9-0 or between 7 and 8 annas for every hundred rupees dealt with.

Since 1st April, 1959, however, the decimal coinage system has come into being in the district also.

\*Withdrawals were higher than collections made during the year.

## Trade and Commerce

*Course of trade.*—In the times of Mughals, when Gujarat formed one of the richest provinces of the empire, Sirohi was locally of some importance, being a place of halt for the commercial caravans passing from the maritime province to the metropolis and other great cities of India, but the trade was not properly organised. When Tod visited the capital in June, 1822, he found the Rao (Sheo Singh) doing his best to further trade and put down crime. Merchants who, three or four years before, would, in entering Sirohi, have literally fallen among thieves, were beginning to return and open their shops, while, "to the utter astonishment of the inhabitants, the *Mina* who was wont, in common with the bear and tiger, to prowl about the grass-covered walks, saw heaps of merchandise and money in the *bazar* which, by some irresistible, and to him inexplicable cause, he was withheld from seizing".

During the next forty years or so, save for broken periods, when the plundering classes got the upper hand and were aided by refractory *Thakurs*, matters seem to have progressed fairly satisfactorily but in 1868 trade suffered much in consequence of the outlawry of Nathu Singh and the arbitrary methods of the officials of the Customs department. It was reported that the Maharaja himself was unacquainted with the nature of the duties levied or the principle on which they were exacted; the wealth of the people consisted entirely in their flocks and herds, and the only exports were *ghee* for the Bombay market via Ahmedabad and sometimes sheep to Deesa.

The through traffic was, however, considerable, English piece goods going northwards and wool, hides, cotton, felt caps and blankets southwards. The advent of the railway in 1881 did much to develop trade, but the real improvement dates from 1886, when the Customs department was reorganised, a revised tariff was introduced, the old system under which goods were frequently taxed, was stopped, and transit duty was abolished on every article except opium.

But Sirohi still faces adverse trade balance. In food-grains this district is a deficit one and lacs of rupees worth food-grains, textiles, sugar and *gur* have to be imported, while there are only a few articles of export to balance imports.

**Exports and Imports.**—The chief articles of export are sheep, goats, *anwal* bark, gum, raw and tanned hides, skin, honey, cotton, wool, bamboo, charcoal, *ghee*, swords and oil seeds, e.g., *til*, mustard seed, rape seed. These articles are sent chiefly to Ahmedabad, Bombay, Kanpur and Delhi.

The chief articles of import are textiles, grain, iron and steel and other metals, cement, salt, kerosene, sugar, tobacco, spices, hosiery, cutlery, crockery, every sort of machinery, medicines, petroleum, matches, building materials etc. These articles are imported mostly from Agra, Ahmedabad, Ajmer, Beawar, Bhatinda, Bombay, Kanpur, Firozpur, Kota, Mehsana, Pachpadra, Poona, Rewari, etc. Though a total picture of the exports and imports of the district is difficult to draw in absence of octroi and road traffic figures, some idea can be had from the inward and outward figures of the important railway stations of the district. The following table gives figures of export and import trade by railways during the year 1961:—

(figures in mds.)

Commodity	Railway Station		
	Sarupganj	Abu Road	Sirohi Road
<b>Exports</b>			
1. Bamboos and <i>Ballis</i>	43,035	..	31,336
2. Charcoal	41,242	16,530	60,134
3. <i>Anwal</i> bark	4,249	..	..
4. <i>Bidi</i> leaves	4,198	..	..
5. Grain, pulses and oil seeds	1,861	4,051	19,004
6. Lime stone	..	1,12,436	..
7. General goods	12,974	23,059	67,122
8. Livestock	2,566	32,774	6,486
<b>Imports</b>			
1. Sugar and Jagree	3,931	31,233	..
2. Salt	2,789	..	..
3. Cotton seed	2,992	..	..
4. Grains, pulses and oil seeds	1,526	41,417	40,280
5. Petroleum products	6,463	..	..
6. Oils	..	..	9,027
7. Timber	..	..	25,544
8. General goods	12,076	1,09,207	92,247

*Wholesale Markets.*—There are four mandis in the district, which deal in the wholesale trade. These are at Sirohi, Sheoganj, Swaroopganj and Abu Road. Two of these mandis namely, at Abu Road and Swaroopganj have the facilities of railway station. The Sheoganj mandi is situated at a distance of 6 miles from the Erinpura Road railway station, while the mandi at Sirohi is situated at a distance of 15 miles from Sirohi Road railway station. The bulk of the arrivals at the Sirohi mandi is in bullock-carts from nearby villages, while at the other three mandis, the arrivals at and exports from the mandis are both through road and railways. The commodities dealt with at these mandis are foodgrains, namely, wheat, barley, gram, *bajra*, maize, *jwar* and also *til*.

The storage facilities available to farmers and traders in the mandi are negligible. However, there are four seed gedowns in the Sirohi tahsil of which three are maintained by the Panchayat Samiti and one by the State Government. The farmers store their produce in earthen pots, locally called *kothi* and *ankras*, cylindrical chambers made of clay and cow-dung. The former have a maximum capacity of five maunds and the later 20 to 25 maunds. The traders keep grains in gunny bags and store them in *pucca* houses of their own or rented ones.

Sales at the mandis are effected by direct contact and negotiations between the sellers and the buyers without the aid of brokers but sometimes sales are done through auctions. Services of the functionaries like commission agent or *arhtiyas*, weighmen (*tularas*) etc. are necessitated in the handling of the arrivals. The following are the charges which are to be borne by the seller at these mandis:—

- (1) *Arhat* (commission of the commission agent) 1 per cent.
- (2) Handling charges 12 nP. per bag.
- (3) *Tulai* 12 nP. per bag.
- (4) *Dharmada* (charges for charity) 25 per cent.

Besides this, in the case of foodgrains the buyer also deducts a margin for waste, which is locally known as *barhda* at the rate of 1 seer per maund. Further, if the seller demands prompt payment for his product, a rebate at the rate of 25 per cent is also deducted, which is called *batta*.

The following are the figures of average arrivals (calculated on the basis of 3 year figures viz., 1957-58, 58-59, 59-60) of various food-grains at the various mandies.

*Volume of Arrivals in thousand mds.*

Name of the Mandi	Wheat	Gram	Bajra	Maize	Til
1. Sirohi	55	2	39	9	2
2. Sheoganj	63	22	48	14	17
3. Swaroopganj	59	6	4	39	12
4. Abu Road	67	19	26	33	22

*Retail Markets.*—Retail traders are found in almost every village of the district. The various tahsil headquarters and also some big villages like Swaroopganj, Kalandri, Barloot, Mandar, Jawal, Anadra, Kiverli, Rohera, are the important centres of retail trade. Sometimes the wholesale dealers also do the retail business. The articles before reaching the actual consumers, have to pass through several hands namely, the wholesale dealers, retail dealers, the village shop-keepers and sometimes also through hawkers and pedlars. Sometimes the wholesale dealer and the retail dealer is the same person and the commodities reach the consumers only through him.

**Fairs**

Mostly, the fairs held in the district are religious and social but they have some commercial importance also in as much as certain hawkers and vendors assemble there. Mostly sweetmeats and other edible preparations are sold by the hawkers. Apart from this, fairs have little commercial value. No weekly markets are held anywhere in the district. The list of the fairs has been given in the III Chapter.

**Co-operative Marketing**

There are three Co-operative Marketing Societies in the district, the details regarding each are given below:—

S. No.	Name of the Society	Date of Registration	Membership
1.	Krishi Kraya Vikraya Sahkari Samiti Ltd.	4-2-60	28
2.	Krishi Kraya Vikraya Sahkari Samiti Ltd.	5-2-60	14
3.	Krishi Kraya Vikraya Sahkari Samiti Ltd.	26-10-60	33

Since these Marketing Societies are still new and full staff is not yet in position, they were not yet able to undertake all the activities to achieve their objects. The Marketing Societies are trying to secure quotas of controlled commodities and it is expected that their working shall be in full swing in due course of time.

#### Merchant & consumer associations

There are no consumers' associations. However, certain merchant associations exist in the district. These merchant associations merely exist in name and have undertaken no activity of any significance since their inception. The following is the list of various merchant associations:

- (1) Sirohi Merchant Association, Sirohi.
- (2) Sheoganj Merchant Association,  
Sheoganj.
- (3) Grain-Wholesale Kirana Merchant  
Association Abu Road. Membership 25
- (4) The Grain Retail Merchant  
Association, Abu Road. 53
- (5) The Hotel Owners Association, Abu Road. 31
- (6) The Halwai Mishtan Association, Abu Road. 30
- (7) The Medical Association, Abu Road. 30
- (8) The Cloth Merchant Association, Abu Road. 32
- (9) The Cloth & Grain Merchant Association,  
Mount Abu.

*State Trading (Fair Price shops).*—The distribution of imported wheat was started in this district through Fair Price Shops from the month of September, 1956. Number of Fair Price Shops, functioning in the district was as under:

Place where Fair-Price Shops functioning		No. of Fair Price Shops Function- ing in the year.			
Tahsil	Town or village	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1961-62
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sirohi	Sirohi	1	1	1	1
	Padiw	1	1	1	1
	Jawal	1	1	1	1
	Kalandri	1	1	1	1
	Velanori			1	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sheoganj	Sheoganj	1	1	1	1
	Posaliya	1	..	..	..
Pindwara	Pindwara	1	1	1	1
	Sarupganj	1	1	1	1
Abu Road	Abu Road	2	2	2	2
	Mt. Abu	1	1	1	1

The quantity of wheat in bags, imported and distributed in the district through the above-mentioned Fair-Price Shops in these years was as under:—

1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1961-62
Sept. 56 to March, 57	April to Dec. 1957	July 58 to April, 59	Jan. 1961 to July, 1961
7887 bags	15029 bags	28697 bags	7890 bags

A quota of 70 tons of U. P. rice was imported and distributed in the Municipal towns through the Fair Price Shops during the period Janaury 1961 to March, 1961.

The distribution of sugar in the district was started through Fair Price Shops and Gram Panchayats from Sept., 1959. In the beginning there was full control and sugar was supplied at fixed scale, but since October, 1960, the supply position of sugar has eased and all restrictions imposed on distribution of the commodity in respect of quantity to be supplied to the consumers have been lifted and now only the price is fixed. There is a Fair-Price Shop each in Sirohi, Padiv, Jawal, Kalandri, Sheoganj, Pindwara, Sarupganj and Mount Abu and two in Abu Road.

The monthly quota of sugar for this district, is six wagons.

#### Weights & Measures

The standard weight used in the district had been the seer, which consisted of 80 tolas. In

his book "The Western Rajputana States", Adams gives the following description of weights and measures used in the former Sirohi State :

3-1/2 paisa	make	1 <i>chhatank</i>
2 <i>Chhatanks</i>	„	1 <i>ad-pao</i>
2 <i>Adpaos</i>	„	1 <i>pao</i>
2 <i>paos</i>	„	1 <i>ad-seer</i>
2 <i>ad-seers</i>	„	1 <i>seer</i>
5 <i>seers</i>	„	1 <i>panchheri</i>
10 <i>seers</i>	„	1 <i>pao-man</i>
20 <i>seers</i>	„	1 <i>ad-man</i>
30 <i>seers</i>		1 <i>pun-man</i>
40 <i>seers</i>	„	1 <i>man</i>

*Land Measures.*—20 Biswansis make 1 Biswa.

20 Biswa make 1 Bigha.

The method of weighing liquid articles like oil, milk etc., and food-grains and like commodities was somewhat peculiar. These were weighed or rather measured, through the medium of pots of various dimensions:

These were as follows:

1. <i>Puala</i>	6 <i>chhatank</i>
2. <i>Adhi pail</i>	$\frac{3}{4}$ <i>seer</i>
3. <i>Paili</i>	$1\frac{1}{2}$ <i>seer</i>
4. <i>Mana</i>	6 <i>seers</i>
5. <i>Sai</i>	24 <i>seers</i>
6. <i>Kalsi</i>	8 <i>mds.</i>

The biggest pot used for weighing had been *mana*, the round of which were repeated for measuring *Sai*, and *Kalsi*. This system has more or less, been abandoned and the balances are widely used for weighing purposes. But in some of the remote villages this system still persists.



For measuring cloth the measures used are *giraḥ* and yard. One *giraḥ* is equal to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches and one yard is equal to 16 *giraḥ* or 36 inches.

As in the whole country, metric system of weights and measures has been introduced in the district also but it has not become popular.

## CHAPTER VII

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### OLD ROUTES

During the mediaeval period of Indian history, the region fell on the route from Delhi to Gujarat and witnessed the marches of various armies. Most of the track being hilly, mules, ponies and horses were frequently employed and camel, that useful beast of burden in the desert, occupied only a secondary position. More often than not, the trade and pilgrimage routes coincided with the military routes and pilgrims often brought contagious diseases with them. Water was abundant and the means of supply plenty.

There were six military routes, joining this area with other regions. Ahmedabad and Abu were connected by two different routes—one via Visanagar and Palanpur and the other via Sidhpur, Deesa and Reodar. The latter was longer by 9 miles. The important stages on the former were: Adalaj, Rupal, Mans, Kukarwara, Visanagar, Jaska, Piluch, Vadgam, Palanpur, Chitrasani, Sarotra, Girwar, Anadra and Mount Abu. The distance from the Girwar Pass direct to Mount Abu could be shorter by a few miles. On the alternative route the important stages were: Adalaj, Pansar, Langhnaj, Mehsana, Unjha, Sidhpur, Meta, Chad, Deesa, Dhanpur, Kuchavada, Mandar, Reodar, Anadra and Mount Abu. The water was abundant and country carts could be plied on the road. From Taleti the marches were steep and mules and ponies were used to carry the luggage.

Another route was from Ahmedabad to Nasirabad via Mehsana, Sidhpur, Deesa, Mandar and Pali. Reodar could be reached by the route described earlier and then the important stages were: Sarwara, Sirohi, Palri, Erinpura, Sanderao, Dola, Gundosh, Pali, Sojat, Beawar, Kharwa and Nasirabad. Ajmer could also be reached by this route.

A third route was from Deesa to Pachpadra via Sanwara, Erinpura and Majal—a distance of 182 miles and 6

furlongs. The important stages were: Dhanpur, Kuchavada, Mandar, Reodar, Sanwara, Sirohi, Palri, Erinpura, Sanderao, Kanola, Marwa, Ghana, Mejal, Depran, Umarlai and Pachpadra. Some portions of the route had good roads, whereas the rest was country cart road.

A fourth important route was from Erinpura to Kotra via Sirohi and Pindwara—a distance of 80 miles and two furlongs. The stages were: Palri, Sirohi, Pindwara, Rohera, Kiara and Kotra. The road was good and hard and water plentiful.

Another route was from Mount Abu to Kotra via Kivarli, Rohera, and Anjani—a distance of 48 miles and three furlongs. It was a cart track.

And finally, there was a fair-weather, hard route from Mount Abu to Udaipur—a distance of 103 miles. This passed through Anadra, Sanwara, Sirohi, Pindwara, Kiara, Malwara-ka-chaura, Gogunda, and Mandar.

During the Mughal period, Sirohi was a halting place for the commercial caravans passing from the western maritime provinces to the metropolis and other great cities of Northern India.

### ROADS AND ROADTRANSPORT

Writing in 1909 about the roads in the Sirohi State, Major K.D. Erskine remarks, "one of the earliest roads made in this State was a section of the Grand Trunk-Road connecting Agra and Ahmedabad; it enters the territory in the north-east at Erinpura and after passing Palri, Sirohi and Anadra leaves it a couple of miles south-west of Mandar, the length within Sirohi limits being about sixty-eight miles. This road was constructed from Imperial funds between 1871 and 1876, at a cost of approximately Rs. 1,57,000; the portion between Erinpura and Sirohi was originally metalled but, after the opening of the railway in 1881, was not kept in repair, and the entire sixty-eight miles are now maintained only as a fair-weather communication".

"Perhaps the most important (and certainly the best) road in the State is that between Abu and Kharari.

originally, it ran via Arna to Rikhikishan at the foot of the hill, was eleven miles in length, and was completed in 1875, but not having been well laid out, the gradients would not admit of its being used by laden camels, and it was decided to adopt a better alignment. Work has started in 1880-81, and the road was ready by 1887, having cost nearly a lakh and a half; it is about seventeen miles long from Abu post office to the railway station at Abu Road". Later on it was metalled.

The Darbar maintained *Kaccha* tracks: from Pindwara to Sirohi; from Rohera to Udaipur border in the direction of Kotra, from Kharari towards the shrine of Amba Bhawani and a mile of metalled road at the capital.

In 1909, the total length of the metalled road was 20 miles and unmetalled 224 miles.

At present (March 1961), the district possesses a total of 415 miles and three furlongs of road; 134 miles, five furlongs are bitumenized, 114 miles five furlongs metalled, 11 miles three furlongs gravel; 154 miles and six furlongs fair-weather. Thus there is one mile of road for every five square miles of area.

#### National Highways

There is no National Highways passing through the district.

#### State Highways

There are eight roads which fall into the category of State highways. These are: from Sumerpur to Sirohi Road, a total of 23 miles and two furlongs, of which one mile is metalled and the rest bitumenised; from Sirohi to Sirohi Road including link road to Bhanwarji temple, a total of 15 miles three furlongs of which four miles five furlongs are metalled and the rest bitumenised; Sirohi Road to Abu Road up to Gujrat border, a total of 25 miles of which six miles and three furlongs are bitumenised and the rest metalled; from Sirohi Road to Pindwara, a piece of one mile metalled road; from Sarupganj to Rohila, a piece of four miles of metalled road; Toda to Mandar—19 miles of metalled road; Sirohi to Karaunti via Anadra a total of 29 miles and four

furlongs metalled road; Sirohi to Sirohi Road up to Gujarat boundary—a total of nine miles of bitumenised road.

The State highway thus cover a total of 126 miles and one furlong; of which 48 miles and three furlongs are bitumenised and the rest metalled.

#### Major District Roads

A total of 193 miles, six furlongs of road come within this category. The roads are:—

- (i) Sirohi to Kalandri—a bitumenised road 18 miles long in the district
- (ii) Bari to Kalandri via Pandiv—a fair-weather road 8 miles long.
- (iii) Jawal to Mandar—a fair-weather road 17 miles long.
- (iv) Sarupganj to Sildar—a fair-weather road 46 miles long.
- (v) Anadra to Sildar—a fair-weather road 17 miles long.
- (vi) Pindwara to Moras—a fair-weather road 13 miles and four furlongs long.
- (vii) Anadra to Mount Abu—a total of six miles of which four miles are gravelled and the rest fair-weather road.
- (viii) Abu Road to Toda—a metalled road 12 miles long.
- (ix) Abu Road to Mount Abu—a bitumenised road 17 miles and one furlong long.
- (x) Abu Road to Ambaji—a bitumenised road 10 miles and one furlong long.
- (xi) Bohira to Gopal Bera—a fair-weather road 12 miles long.
- (xii) Abu Road to Posina—a fair-weather road 17 miles long.

## Village Roads and others

The following roads belong to this category:—

	Length		Type
	Miles	Furlongs	
Bhawarji to Araseen	2	..	Metal
Erinapura to proper road	3	2	2 miles metalled and rest fair-weather.
Approach road to Sarneshwarjee	..	6	Bitumen
Approach road to Posalia	..	5	Metal
Approach road to Bhanwari	..	7	Metal
Approach road to Mirpur temple	1	7	Metal
Approach road to Kojra village	1	..	Metal
Rohira to Vasa	1	3	Metal
Kalandri to Gudha	6	..	Fair-weather
Vasa to Abu Road up to border	12	..	Fair-weather
Link road to Kolargarh	1	..	Gravel
Abu Road to Rishi Kesh	2	..	Metal
Delwara to Achalgarh temple	4	4	5 furlongs metal and rest bitumen
Approach road to Adhardevi temple	..	1	Bitumen
Raniwara-Deesa road up to district border	6	4	Metal
Abu Road to Siwaji-ka-Road	3	6	6 furlongs bitumen & rest metal
Pindwara Rly. Station to town	1	..	Bitumen
Sirohi Road to Servesherji temple	1	..	Bitumen
Abu Road to Chitrasen	6	4	Bitumen
Abu to Gaumukh	2	..	Bitumen
Achalgarh to Gauri Sikhar	3	..	Fair-weather
Kalandri to Ramsin upto village	6	3	Gravel
Approach road to Rampura village	..	6	Metal

Thus the total length of village roads and roads not classified comes to 68 miles two furlongs.

In 1955-56, the total length of the roads in the district was 362 miles.

### Road Transport

*Vehicles.*—During the last five years (1957-1961) there has been an appreciable increase of 81.6 per cent in the number of vehicles actually plying on the roads. This increase is even more glaring when compared with all-Rajasthan figure which is 49.1 per cent for this period. The relative increase in the various types of vehicles in the district can be seen from the following table:—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
1. Private cars and jeeps	156	180	197	204	221
2. Private buses	5	5	5	5	4
3. Motor cycles and taxi-cycles-rickshaws	26	28	32	38	40
4. Contract and taxi-carriages	5	9	12	16	20
5. Stage carriages	45	45	71	75	68
6. Public carriers	60	73	79	82	83
7. Private carriers	21	21	21	24	27
8. Tractors	12	19	20	26	20
9. Others	..	..	..	..	..
Total	330	380	437	470	483

Cycles are used by a large number of people in the towns as well as villages connected by roads. Milkmen have perhaps taken the greatest advantage of this poorman's vehicle to carry milk from villages to the towns, which they once brought on their heads.

Tongas are rarely seen. A few rickshaws are available at Abu Road. Transport in the town is usually by bullock carts or hand driven *thelas*.

**Public Transport.**—The Rajasthan State Roadways maintains two depots—one at Sirohi and the other at Abu Road. The former was set up in 1954 and the latter in 1957. The routes on which the Sirohi depot buses run are: Sirohi-Sirohi Road, Sirohi-Abu Road, Sirohi-Sumerpur, Sumerpur-Abu Road, Sirohi-Vassa and Sarupganj-Vassa.

Those run by Abu Road depot are: Abu Road-Mount Abu, Abu Road-Ambaji, Abu Road-Danta, Abu Road-Posina, Abu Road-Mandar, Abu Road-Anadra and Mount Abu-Delwara-Achalgarh. During the peak season special buses are also run. Taxi cars are available at the Abu Road depot.

The private bus services run on the following routes: Sirohi-Ramsin-Magra-Jalore; Sirohi-Siyana-Vagra-Jalore; Sirohi-Kalandri; Sirohi-Harji; Sirohi-Reodar; Mandar-Sildar; Toda-Mandar via Reodar; and Sarupganj-Sildar.

There is no important goods transport company in the district. A number of petrol pumps have been installed in the important towns and routes.

#### Road Accidents

With the increase of road traffic, there has been a consequent rise in the number of road accidents. In 1961, there were 17 accidents involving 15 vehicles, resulting in the death of seven persons and injury to 29. The following statement will reveal the position in this respect in recent years:—

	Accidents	Persons killed	Injured	Vehicles involved
1957	6	2	8	7
1958	8	3	4	9
1959	14	4	11	14
1960	10	2	12	19

#### RAILWAYS

The first metre gauge line in the district was opened on 30th December, 1880. The line was the property of the British Government and was a part of Raj-



putana-Malwa Railway. The eight stations on this line were: Mawal, Abu Road, Kivarli, Bhimania, Rohera, Banas, Pindwara and Keshavganj—a total length of nearly 40 miles in the State.

At present the district is on the Delhi-Ahmedabad route of the Western Railways.

*Stations and Trains.*—The metre guage enters the district at Mori Bera and crosses it at Mawal. The stations are: Mori Bera, Kotar, Mana, Keshavganj, Sirohi Road, Banas, Sarupganj, Bhimania, Kivarli, Abu Road and Mawal. The total length of the line in the district is about 83 Kilometers.

There are six UP trains and six Down trains passing through these stations. These are: Abu Road-Mehsana; Delhi-Ahmedabad; Ahmedabad-Agra Fort; Delhi-Ahmedabad; Ahmedabad-Delhi; Ajmer-Mehsana; Ahmedabad-Delhi; Mehana-Ajmer; Delhi-Ahmedabad; Mehana-Abu Road; Agra Fort-Ahmedabad; and Ahmedabad-Delhi.

Persons bound for and coming from Sirohi and Mount Abu have to detrain or take train at Sirohi Road and Abu Road respectively.

*Influence of Railways.*—Referring to the influence of railways, Erskine writes in the old gazetteer of Sirohi: "The railway has conferred many benefits on the people and its value is most noticeable in periods of famine when, by facilitating the rapid movement of grain, it prevents local failures from causing great distress..... Besides stimulating trade generally and increasing the number of pilgrim to the famous Jain temples at Abu, the railway has to some extent influenced the language of the people and it is not uncommon to hear a certain amount of Hindustani and an English word or two inter-mixed with the local Marwari dialect." This is much more true today. The number of persons travelling on the trains has increased immensely. Railways has now become very common with all categories of the populace. It has become part and parcel of the life of the community and has begun to play very important part therein. More travel and commerce is now conducted through the railways. Indeed, the railways have played in this district also a very important part in the intermixing of

population and instilling increasing sense of affinity with people inhabiting other parts of the country.

### AIRFIELDS

There is an air-strip in Sirohi.

### Amenities for Travellers

*Dharamshalas.*—In the days of caravan traffic, *'Dharamshalas'* used to be maintained at halting places along the main trade routes. Many of these have long since disappeared, but a few still exist at Sirohi, Sheoganj, Reodar, Pindwara, Sarupganj, Abu Road and Mount Abu.

*Rest Houses.*—The Public Works Department maintains Dak bungalows at Sirohi, Sheoganj, Abu Road, Sirohi Road, Anadra, Mandar, Sanwara, Ora, Oria and Delwara. All these have suitable arrangements regarding crockery, cutlery etc. Dak bungalows at Sirohi (four suits), Abu Road (four suits), Sirohi Road (four suits), Oria (two suits) and Delwara (two suits) have necessary arrangements of water supply, sanitary and lighting.

At Mount Abu, many dak bungalows and rest houses are maintained by the State Government and Government of India. These are: (a) Rajasthan Government-Holiday Home (23 beds), Dholpur House (8 beds), Jodhpur Vakalat (4 beds), Kishangarh Vakalat (4 beds), Midhurst Dak Bungalow (6 beds), Grange Kothi (12 beds), Delwara Dak Bungalow (4 beds), Oria Dak Bungalow (4 beds); (b) Government of India—C. P. W. D. Dak Bungalow (8 beds), Rock View (4 beds), M. E. S. Inspection Bungalow, for military personnels (6 beds), Railway Peaches, for railway officers (10 beds); (c) Bombay Government-Sardargarh House (6 beds).

*Hotels.*—At Sirohi and Sarupganj there are a few restaurants, which at times also keep lodgers. At Abu Road and Mount Abu there are good hotels and restaurants suitable for tourists. The better known hotels at Abu are: Kotah House (8 beds), Mount Hotel (11 beds), Jaipur Hotel<sup>1</sup> (12 beds), Hotel Jodhpur (25 beds), Hotel Lake House (12 beds), Palace Hotel, Hill View Hotel (13 beds), Rajendra Hotel (18 beds), Shanti Sadan Guest House (24 beds), Giriraj Hotel (20 beds), Nav Jivan Lodge (55 beds), Bhartiya Niwas (20 beds), Shri Nikatan (50 beds), Ambika Lodge (18 beds).

<sup>1</sup> Jaipur Hotel operates only during the months of April, May and June.

Municipal Rest House (40 beds), Shanti Sadan Vishramgrah (70 beds), Arya Vishramgrah (20 beds), Arbud Niwas Lodge (30 beds), Saraswati Lodge (20 beds), Nakki Lodge (30 beds), Arya Vishram Bhawan (30 beds) and Abu Yatri Pravasi Seva Samaj (8 beds). Boys and Girls' Youth Hostels provide 60 beds to the students at a very moderate rate (50 P. per day per head). The bulk of those who belong to low income group stay at: (i) Shri Raghunathji-ka-Mandir, (ii) Shri Jain Swetamber Dharamshala (iii) Shri Jain Digamber, Dharamshala. These three places accommodate 2500 tourists. Accommodation in Bundi Cottage, Jaisalmer House, Palanpur House and Bikaner House can be reserved by direct negotiations with their respective owners. Gujarati, Punjabi and Marwari dishes can be had in almost all the Hotels. English and continental dishes are also served on order by some of the leading hostels.

#### POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Writing in 1909, Major K. D. Erskine remarks: "The State possesses twelve Imperial post offices, namely; a head office at Abu Road, sub-offices at Abu, Erinpura, Rohera and Sirohi, and branch offices at Anadra, Jawal, Kalandri, Mandar, Pindwara, Rohera station and Siana. Abu Road, Pindwara and Rohera stations are all on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway; between Abu Road and Abu the mails are carried by *tongas* twice a day either way, while the other places are served by runners."

"Telegraph offices exist at Abu, Abu Road, Erinpura and Sirohi and those at the various railway stations are also utilized."

At present (March 31, 1961) there are 65 branch offices and E. D. B. Os. and nine sub-offices. The list is given below:—

##### Sub-Offices:—

1. Abu.
2. Abu Road.
3. Erinpura.
4. Pindwara.
5. Sarupganj.

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6. Sirohi.                   | 31. Madia.        |
| 7. Sarup Vilas.              | 32. Miramandwas.  |
| 8. Reodar.                   | 33. Pamera.       |
| 9. Mandar.                   | 34. Raipur.       |
| Branch Offices and E.D.B.Os. | 35. Sanpur.       |
| 1. Bharja.                   | 36. Shilder.      |
| 2. Datani.                   | 37. Sirodi.       |
| 3. Girwar.                   | 38. Bhanwari.     |
| 4. Kiverli.                  | 39. Bhula.        |
| 5. Mawal.                    | 40. Dhanari.      |
| 6. Munghthala.               | 41. Nitoda.       |
| 7. Nichalgarh.               | 42. Rohera.       |
| 8. Santpur.                  | 43. Vatera.       |
| 9. Siyawa.                   | 44. Vasa.         |
| 10. Andore                   | 45. Barloot.      |
| 11. Jogapura.                | 46. Dodua.        |
| 12. Joyla.                   | 47. Gohli.        |
| 13. Parli Mooli.             | 48. Gol.          |
| 14. Parli Jod.               | 49. Jawal.        |
| 15. Posaliya.                | 50. Kalandri.     |
| 16. Uthman.                  | 51. Khanbal.      |
| 17. Banas.                   | 52. Krishnaganj.  |
| 18. Bhimana.                 | 53. Las.          |
| 19. Janapur.                 | 54. Mandwara.     |
| 20. Jhadoli.                 | 55. Mandari.      |
| 21. Kojra.                   | 56. Mandwara.     |
| 22. Nadia.                   | 57. Mandwaria.    |
| 23. Sanwada.                 | 58. Mohabatnagar. |
| 24. Sirohi Road.             | 59. Padiv.        |
| 25. Virwara.                 | 60. Sampura.      |
| 26. Anadra.                  | 61. Sindrath.     |
| 27. Bant.                    | 62. Tawari.       |
| 28. Bhatana.                 | 63. Udd.          |
| 29. Dantrai.                 | 64. Vollangeri.   |
| 30. Jirawal.                 | 65. Varada.       |

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

According to the Census of 1901, more than thirtytwo per cent of the people registered agriculture as their principal means of subsistence (land-lords or tenants about 28.7 per cent and field labourers about 3.54 per cent). About 22.4 per cent were shown as general labourers. The industrial population amounted to 13.13 per cent and was chiefly engaged in the provision of food and drink and in the cotton and leather industries. The commercial classes such as bankers, money-lenders, general merchants and shopkeepers formed 13.72 per cent—a figure much higher than was recorded in any other State in Rajputana, only 1.8 per cent belonged to the professional classes.

According to 1951 Census, 1,26,602 persons or 53 per cent of the population depended directly or indirectly on agriculture as the principal means of their livelihood. Among the agriculturists, the largest percentage i.e., 31, was that of cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents. Out of 47 per cent of non-agriculturists, people depending on services and miscellaneous sources, formed 19 per cent of the general population, industrialists also formed 19 per cent, while traders and transport occupation formed 8 and one per cent respectively.

#### Public Service

Due to the setting up of various development departments after the formation of the district and especially after the democratic decentralisation, the number of those in public service has considerably increased. In the last census of 1951, the occupations were classified under various categories like government service, village service etc. and not according to the professions and as such it is not possible to give a separate account of all these occupations. At present (1961) more than 1,757 persons are engaged in public services, excluding the number of the persons engaged in the central government departments. Of these nearly 1/5th are employees of Panchayat Samitis.

### Professions

In the absence of technical institutions the professions like teaching, medicine, engineering and law are not adequately represented. But due to increase in the schools and medical institutions and irrigations and construction works, there is a considerable increase in the number of persons engaged in these departments. At the time of the 1951 Census, there were only 286 teachers in the district and 20 registered doctors. At the time of the 1961 Census however, their number increased considerably. There were 1,230 teachers, of whom 15 were teachers in University, 184 in Secondary Schools and 704 in Middle and Primary Schools. 327 teachers were not classified. Similarly 72 persons were recorded as physicians, surgeons and dentists, of whom 35 were physicians and surgeons, allopathic. No doubt that the number of teachers have increased in a greater ratio than of the doctors.

### Lawyers

During 1951 Census, there were 36 lawyers. At the 1961 Census however 63 persons have been recorded as jurists, of whom 51 were legal practitioners and advisers.

### Others

Large number of people are engaged in small industries and in miscellaneous services like trade, construction work and the rendering of personal services such as tailoring, hair-cutting and domestic service. There is a total absence of large industry.

The following table shows the number of persons shown in the 1951 Census as deriving their main source of income from various non-farming occupations, the table is not comprehensive nor is it entirely accurate as some of the occupations are so closely allied that mistakes in the entries have been inevitable.

S. No.	Type of occupation.	No. of persons.
1.	Astrologers	147
2.	Bidi-makers	34
3.	Blacksmiths	387
4.	Bullock-cart drivers	504

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<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Type of occupation.</i>	<i>No. of persons.</i>
5.	Breeders of domestic animals	4,514
6.	Brick-makers	49
7.	Brokers	12
8.	Barbers	469
9.	Camel drivers	52
10.	Carpenters	600
11.	Confectioners	26
12.	Cooks	120
13.	Cloth weavers	16
14.	Cotton ginner	46
15.	Dyers and printers	126
16.	Doctors	20
17.	Dispensary staff	61
18.	Domestic servants	512
19.	Employees in police	476
20.	Flour-grinders	47
21.	Gold and Silver ornament makers	473
22.	General merchants	517
23.	Grain shopkeepers	341
24.	Gardeners	120
25.	Herdsmen and Shepherds	600
26.	Hotel and restaurant employees	161
27.	Labourers	7,326
28.	Lawyers	36
29.	Musicians	107
30.	Money-lenders	71
31.	Masons	468
32.	Militarymen	132
33.	Oil pressers	242

<i>Type of occupation.</i>	<i>No. of persons.</i>
34. Other leather workers	372
35. Potters	933
36. Priests and other serving in temples and mosques	290
37. Railway employees	70
38. Shoe-makers	905
39. Spice merchants	1,465
40. Sellers of gold and silverware	107
41. Sellers of <i>Ghee</i>	100
42. Sellers of vegetables	43
43. Sellers of <i>Gur</i>	156
44. Sellers of grass	150
45. Sellers of wood	274
46. Sellers of leather shoes	45
47. Sellers of cloth	876
48. Sellers of wool	95
49. Scavengers	220
50. State Government employees not otherwise classified	550
51. Tailors	549
52. Tonga drivers	21
53. Teachers	286
54. Union Government employees not otherwise classified	6
55. Vaid	10
56. Wood cutters	164
57. Workers in stone-quarries, clay and sand pits	251
58. Washermen	49
59. Yarn-spinners	1,016

The various occupations listed in the 1961 Census (Provisional figures) do not have the same classification as that of 1951 and hence it is not possible to make a comparative study of all the professions. A table showing the distribution of population in various occupations in 1961 is given in appendix I.



## APPENDIX I

List of the persons engaged in various occupations during the 1961 Census (provisional figures)

S. No.	Type of occupation	No. of persons
1	2	3
1.	Architects, Engineers and Surveyors	76
2.	Chemists, Physicists, Geologists and other Physical Scientists	3
3.	Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and Related Scientists	9
4.	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists	72
5.	Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical and Health Technicians	208
6.	Teachers	1,230
7.	Jurists	63
8.	Social Scientists and Related Workers	6
9.	Artists, Writers and Related Workers	373
10.	Draughtsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians n. e. c.	106
11.	Other professional, Technical and Related Workers	416
12.	Administrators and Executive Officials, Government	1,232
13.	Directors and Managers, Wholesale and Retail Trade	3
14.	Directors, Managers and Working Proprietors, Financial Institutions	10
15.	Directors, Managers and Working Proprietors, other	332
16.	Book-Keepers and Cashiers	436
17.	Stenographers and Typists	18

1	2	3
18.	Office Machine Operators	9
19.	Clerical Workers, Miscellaneous	825
20.	Unskilled Office Workers	620
21.	Working Proprietors, Wholesale and Retail Trade	3,593
22.	Insurance and Real Estate Salesmen, Salesmen of Securities and Services and Auctioneers	59
23.	Commercial Travellers and Manufacturers' Agents	4
24.	Salesmen, Shop Assistants and Related Workers	1,203
25.	Money-lenders and Brokers	185
26.	Farmers and Farm Managers	6,996
27.	Fishermen and Related Workers	27
28.	Loggers and other Forestry Workers	1,470
29.	Miners and Quarrymen	516
30.	Miners and Quarrymen and Related Workers n. e. c.	255
31.	Deck Officers, Engineers Officers and Pilots, ship	2
32.	Deck and Engine-Room Ratings (ship) Barge Crews and Boatmen	10
33.	Drivers and Firemen, Railway Engine	453
34.	Drivers, Road Transport	861
35.	Conductors, Guards and Brakesmen (Railway)	242
36.	Inspectors, Supervisors, Traffic Controllers and Despatchers Transport	296
37.	Telephone, Telegraph and Related Tele-Communication Operators	29

1	2	3
38.	Postmen and Messengers	136
39.	Workers in Transport and Communication Occupations, n. e. c.	206
40.	Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and Related Workers	1,141
41.	Tailors, Cutters, Furriers and Related Workers	1,350
42.	Leather Cutters, Lasters and Sewers (Except Gloves and Garments) and Related Workers	1,630
43.	Furnacemen, Rollers, Drawers, Moulders and Related Metal Making and Treating Workers	642
44.	Precision Instrument Makers, Watch Makers, Jewellers and Related Workers	895
45.	Tool Makers, Machinists, Plumbers, Welders, Platers and Related Workers	562
46.	Electricians and Related Electrical and Electronics Workers	85
47.	Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Coopers and Related Workers	871
48.	Painters and Paper Hangers	33
49.	Bricklayers, Plasterers and Construction Workers, n. e. c.	1,881
50.	Compositors, Printers, Engravers, Book Binders and Related Workers	20
51.	Potters, Kilnmen, Glass and Clay Foremen and Related Workers	1,036
52.	Millers Bakers, Brewmasters and Related Food and Beverage Workers	670
53.	Chemical and Related Process Workers	18
54.	Tobacco Preparers and Products Makers	15
55.	Craftsmen and Production Process Workers, n. e. c.	239
56.	Testers, Packers, Sorters and Related Workers	9

1	2	3
57. Stationary Engine and Excavating and Lifting Equipment Operators and Related Workers		72
58. Labourers, n. e. c.		9,950
59. Fire Fighters, Policemen, Guards and Related Workers		1,104
60. House Keepers, Cooks, Maids and Related Workers		879
61. Waiters, Bartenders and Related Workers		153
62. Building Care-takers, Cleaners and Related Workers		654
63. Barbers, Hair-dressers, Beauticians and Related Workers		526
64. Launderers, Dry Cleaners and Pressers		153
65. Photographers and Related Camera Operators		7
66. Service, Sport and Recreation Workers, n. e. c.		34
67. Workers Reporting Occupations Un-identifiable or Unclassifiable		1,089
68. Workers not Reporting Occupation		1,252

## CHAPTER IX

### ECONOMIC TRENDS

The industrial potential of the district is very low, as a result of which, inspite of the hilly terrain, not less than 53 per cent of the total population depends on agriculture (1961 Census figures). Industries, big and small, absorb only 19 per cent of the population, while trade and transport eight per cent and one per cent respectively. People, deriving their livelihood from services and miscellaneous sources, form 19 per cent of the total population.

So far as rural economy of the district is concerned, 58 per cent of the population belongs to agricultural class. Cultivators of unowned land constitute 35 per cent, owner cultivators 16 per cent, cultivating labourers six per cent and non-cultivating owners only one per cent of the population. These percentages indicate that not less than 60.34 per cent of the agricultural class in the rural areas does not own, but cultivates, while 27.59 per cent owns as well as cultivates the land. The non-agricultural classes in the rural side constitute 42 per cent of the total rural population. Largest number depends on industries, which support 18 per cent, other services and miscellaneous sources 17 per cent, trade seven per cent and transport less than one per cent of the people.

In the urban areas, according to 1951 Census Report, owner cultivators constitute 11 per cent of the population, while cultivators of unowned land six per cent, cultivating labourers two per cent, and lastly, those who own the land but do not cultivate are one per cent. It means that only 20 per cent of the urban population derives its livelihood from agriculture as its primary source of income. Those depending upon other services and miscellaneous sources form the largest single group of 35 per cent. Industries support 23 per cent, trade 18 per cent and transport four per cent of the population.

*Economic Status.*—According to economic dependence, persons can be classified as earners, earning dependents and

non-earning dependents. In the district, 37 per cent of those who own and cultivate their lands are self-supporters or earners, 44 per cent non-earning dependents and 19 per cent earning dependents. Among cultivators of unowned land 28 per cent are earners, 54 per cent non-earning dependents and 10 per cent earning dependents. Of the cultivating labourers 35 per cent are earners, 49 per cent non-earning dependents and 16 per cent earning dependents. Of the non-cultivating owners of land, those who receive agricultural rent, 19 per cent are earners, 77 per cent non-earning dependents and four per cent earning dependents.

Of those persons who are employed in industries (i.e. producers other than cultivators) 27 per cent are earners, 59 per cent non-earning dependents and 14 per cent earning dependents.

Among traders of the district, 30 per cent earn sufficient to maintain themselves (earners or self-supporters), 67 per cent do not earn but depend on others (non-earning dependents) and three per cent earn but still depend on others (earning dependents) as their earnings are insufficient to enable them to make both ends meet.

Of those persons, who secure their livelihood through transport, 29 per cent are earners, 62 per cent non-earning dependents and nine per cent earning dependents.

30 per cent of those, who are either in service or earn through miscellaneous sources are earners, 63 per cent non-earning dependents and the rest seven per cent are earning dependents. In the whole of the district, for all categories-70,553 persons or 29.72 per cent are earners, 1,34,482 or 56.65 per cent earning dependents and, lastly, 32,327 or 13.61 per cent are non-earning dependents.

Out of the self-supporting persons of non-agricultural class, 0.1 per cent of those who depend on industries are employers, five per cent employees and a wholesome majority of nearly 95 per cent are independent workers. It is a clear indicator of the total dearth of enterpreneurial class in the district.

Among traders two per cent are employers, six per cent employees and 92 per cent independent workers. In trans-

port, three per cent are employers, 27 per cent employees and 70 per cent independent workers.

These figures show that an overwhelming majority of the people work as independent workers, very few are employees, as here is not much scope of employment in the industries, and a very few of them are employers. It reflects in no ambiguous terms the industrial backwardness of the area.

Economically inactive persons can be grouped into two categories:

- (a) Those who earn their livelihood without any economic activity, e. g., pensioners, stipend holders, receivers of rent and interest etc.
- (b) Those whose activities are uneconomic in nature, e. g., beggars.

The number of such persons in the district, according to 1951 Census, is 1,581 or 0.6 per cent of the total population.

*Price Level.*—The Sirohi State had often suffered from droughts, more or less severe. Floods never occurred in the district, but seasons of extraordinary rainfalls have been experienced. The wheat and barley crops are occasionally damaged by frost or by a black fungus called *giro*, which is apt to come if cloudy weather prevails in the spring when the crops are in the air. Locusts also cause great harm to the crops sometimes. This has made Sirohi State virtually a deficit area of foodgrains which was imported from the British India. Hence, the prices prevailing in Sirohi were influenced by outside markets.

The study of the general level of prices and wages is significant, as it helps to understand the rural economic conditions. Further, it can be treated as an indicator of the value of rupee.

The value of the rupee at the turn of the century can be gauged from the fact that wheat sold at 14-1/2 seers, gram 17-1/4 seers and *bajra* 15-7/8 seers per rupee. The extent to which prices have risen during the past 56 years is seen by

a comparison of the above prices with those listed in the following table covering the period 1955-60:

(Rs. per maund)						
Year	Wheat	Barley	Gram	<i>Jwar</i>	<i>Bajra</i>	Maize
1955	12.62	7.52	9.33	7.81	9.13	7.94
1956	16.60	11.78	..	13.88	13.89	13.10
1957	17.71	14.04	12.80	13.94	15.05	14.99
1958	18.95	13.79	13.54	13.58	14.47	13.57
1959	21.50	14.54	14.87	14.56	16.12	13.54
1960	19.52	13.39	13.48	14.73	14.75	13.98

The prices of all foodgrains showed a marked upward trend during the early years of the Second Plan period, reaching their highest level in 1959, after which there was some fall in most cases. The rise was most conspicuous in the case of *jwar* and wheat, which rose from 7.81 and 12.62 in 1955 to 14.73 and 19.52 at the end of 1960. (The figure given in the table is the average for the year), an increase of Rs. 6.92 and 6.90 per maund respectively. Among other cereals, maize rose, during the same period, by Rs. 6.04 per maund, barley by Rs. 5.87, *bajra* by Rs. 5.62 and gram by Rs. 4.15.

*Wages.*—The wages of workers employed in various fields of production (agricultural and non-agricultural) has experienced a marked fluctuation alongwith the level of prices of various commodities. In the last decade of 19th century and the beginning of the present century the labourers in the district were paid annas four to five a day. Agricultural labourers were generally paid in kind at the time of the harvest. They were also provided with food and clothes. Skilled workers like masons and carpenters, etc. were given annas six to eight per day.

Major K.D. Erskine, in the Gazetteer of 1909, describes, the prevalent wages in the rural and urban areas of



Sirohi State, as "wages have risen slightly in consequence of the increased demand for labour, and it is reported that men who, twenty years ago, worked four days for a rupee now work only three. At the present time, ordinary blacksmiths, carpenters and masons receive from six to eight annas a day in the district, and slightly more on Abu, while the wages of really skilled workmen are of course still higher. Agricultural labourers are sometimes paid in cash (at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  annas a day), but more often get food and clothing and a share of crop; others, such as carriers and diggers, earn about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas daily, and the coolies who carry loads up and down Abu receive nine annas per trip, of which half an anna is paid to a contractor. On Abu itself, the daily wage of a ordinary coolie varies between  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and 4 annas. The village servants, such as potters, barbers and workers in leather, are, as elsewhere, usually remunerated in kind at each harvest, and also get little perquisites at odd times".

Till 1940-41 unremunerative labour or *begar* was in vogue. Later on, cash remuneration was fixed for all manual labour. Now, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, wages have been fixed by the Government for different categories of employees. Practically, the wages of different classes of labourers differ according to the work done and the locality. In rural areas wages are sometimes paid in kind by the agriculturists, while others pay in cash. Skilled male labourer gets three to four rupees a day, while others get one to Rs. 1.50 per day. Female labourer is available at about half of what male labourer gets. Agricultural labourer gets 75nP. to Rs. 1.50 per day.

### Standard of Living

Sirohi State area had never been prosperous, as it was hit several times by droughts. Besides, agriculture was a poor source of income, industries were negligible and most of the people led a very simple life.

Lt. Col. A. Adams in a Medical-Topographical Account of Sirohi State of 1900 describe the general conditions of the people of the State in the following words:

"There are no very wealthy classes in Sirohi. The Jagirdars are mostly poor, and generally in debt, but among

the Mahajans and traders there are some rich men. The cultivators are all poor, and, as a rule, completely in the hands of the money-lenders (Bohrias). The people of richer class live in houses built of burnt bricks and mud, with tiled roofs. The cultivators live in mud huts, the roofs being generally tiled. The Bhils and Minas live in beehive huts made of stakes and mud, and thatched. In villages located at the foot of hills, the huts of these classes are so situated as to allow of a ready escape to the hills in cases of emergency. In the hills the Grasias (Girasias), who are the principal inhabitants, live in scattered hamlets."

Wheat and *bajra* form the chief articles of food of the better classes; barley, maize, *bajra* and *kulath* that of the poor.

In the rural areas, people keep ordinary, simple and cheap furniture. Most of them also keep milch cattle. The houses of well-to-do persons in urban areas are imposing buildings, which are white-washed either on Deepawali or some other significant occasion, e.g. marriage or religious ceremonies, etc. In olden days, people of lower cultivating class, viz., Ghanehis, Rebaris, Malis and Kablis etc. were not permitted to construct *pucca* houses by their caste rules but now these restrictions have become ineffective.

The living conditions of the service class people during state times had been fairly satisfactory. In 1942-43 schemes of pension, dearness allowance and gratuity were introduced to ameliorate their economic condition. But it was a comfort to them only for a short duration as prices increased and the war further affected them adversely, while the business class earned good profits. The schemes of essential commodity control had to be introduced to regularise the prices as well as the distribution of a few commodities.

At present the condition of the people is improving gradually. The agricultural and business class is making good profits. The people, who previously used to travel over long distance on foot have now become accustomed to the use of buses and trains.

Throughout the district, the joint family generally consists of the parents, sons, married and unmarried, and the unmarried daughters and other dependents (widows etc.).

It provides a sense of economic and social security to the individual family members. But at present its old sense of cohesion is withering away due to changed social and economic situations.

The economic condition of the people enables them only to consume *kura* and *jwar*, wheat, barley, gram, *mung*, maize and *kulath* as their common food. In urban areas people consume wheat, while in rural areas only richer classes e.g., Brahmins, Mahajan and well-to-do Rajputs, use it. Those who are comparatively rich use *gher* on wheat bread and also use vegetables. Brahmins and Mahajan are vegetarians while Rajputs and Muslims generally eat meat. Bhil, Gharias and other similar castes too, take meat, when they can afford. On the birth of a child some people prepare *lapsi* (a preparation of *gur*, *ghee*, and *dalia* of wheat). The food of mother during the delivery period consists of *sunthpak*, *ajma* and *rab* prepared from the flour, *gur* and *ghee*. On the occasion of marriages people prepare sweets in addition to other preparations. The principal meals are taken at about 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Few people take breakfast in the morning.

People mostly smoke *bidi* and *hukka* in the villages and *bidi* and cigarettes in the towns. Attractive dresses are put on, on festivals. Women of richer class wear gold and silver ornaments, while those of lower class of inferior metals.

According to the findings of the survey conducted by the Directorate of Economic and Industrial Surveys, Rajasthan, into the tribal indebtedness of Sirohi district, 91.10 per cent of the total tribal population depend on agriculture as their primary means of livelihood. It is followed by labour, which provides livelihood to 4.92 per cent of the tribal population. In the Girasia Zone 22.8 per cent are earners, 32.52 per cent earning dependents and 45.40 per cent non-earning dependents. The average monthly income of a Scheduled Tribe family is Rs. 71.49 and per capita income Rs. 13.38. The average size of the tribal household is 5.34 persons of whom 22.08 per cent are earners, 32.52 per cent earning dependents and 45.40 per cent non-earning dependents. About 62 per cent of the tribal population in this area is in debt. Of the total loan taken by these people 69.82 per cent has been taken for unproductive purposes.

*Employment.* - As stated earlier agriculture is the principal occupation of the people, which is followed by the industries. Most of the labour is employed by the contractors, who, after the completion of the work, dispense with their services. The labourers have, then, to seek employment elsewhere. Labour is also employed by the stone quarry owners and the small factories of wood saw. But this employment is negligible as compared to total number of labourers seeking employment.

There is an Employment Exchange at Sirohi which was set up on 1-4-1959. In the year 1960, the Employment Exchange registered 2,108 applicants, 853 vacancies were notified and 641 applicants were appointed in service. In this year, 14 employers used the services of the Employment Exchange. According to the records maintained at the Exchange, there are 23 employers, most of them being contractors. The employers have not been filing regular returns and therefore, the exact number of persons employed cannot be ascertained.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Community Development

As stated earlier, the district is a hilly tract, inhabited in rural areas predominantly by Girasias, Bhils and Minas etc. Little was done during the State time to specially improve the condition of the backward classes. Hence, after the merger of the state into Rajasthan, and its formation as a district, at the time of the initiation of the First Five Year Plan, various schemes of development for this area were formulated and executed.

The Community Development Programme was started in the district in 1954 with the opening of a development block at Pindwara tahsil. Since then the programme has steadily expanded and the entire rural population has now been covered. In October, 1959 the community development programme was merged into the wider scheme of Democratic Decentralization, the main object of which is to enable the people to draw up and implement development schemes for their own areas. The main features

of democratic decentralization have been described elsewhere. It would be sufficient to observe here that to enable the panchayat samitis to function effectively, the Block Development Officers (each samiti area coincides with what was formerly known as Development Block) have been attached to them and they are also assisted by technical personnel (Extension Officers) in the fields of industry, agriculture, animal husbandry and co-operation etc.

### **Pindwara**

The Pindwara development block, the oldest in the district, was inaugurated as a First Stage Block in October, 1954. After six years of its existence, in 1960 it was converted into a Second Stage Block.

The Block (now panchayat samiti area) covers about 56,000 persons in all, 99 villages of Pindwara tahsil with an area of 434 square miles. The headquarters are connected by road to important places in the district, and is situated on the Delhi-Ahmadabad railway line, the railway station of town being known as Sirohi Road.

By the end of 1960-61, in the field of chemical fertilizers, agriculture and irrigation, 1,99,087 kg. of all types of chemical fertilizers, 7,31,992 kg. of all types of improved seeds, 18 improved iron ploughs and 443 seed drillers besides other agricultural implements, have been distributed. 4,451 compost pits had been dug to prepare good variety of manure, 168 *kachha* and 182 *pucca* wells were constructed, 400 *kachha* and 1,220 *pucca* wells were repaired, 30 pumping sets were installed and 3,322 acres of land had been reclaimed. In order to improve livestock breeds, five Cattle Breeding Centres were opened, 3,840 cattle were castrated and 32,138 were vaccinated. A total of 5,053 agricultural demonstrations had been organised.

In the field of co-operation, 32 multipurpose credit co-operatives, 21 industrial co-operatives, 12 agricultural co-operatives and eight other societies had been formed.

For the purification of drinking water in rural areas, disinfectants were used in 31 wells. In order to promote

social education in the rural areas, 15 reading rooms, 35 youth clubs and 60 adult education centres had been established. New type of smokeless *chullas* (cooking ranges) were tried on an experimental basis and a total of 53 had been installed by the end of March, 1961.

#### **Abu Road**

The Abu Road block was inaugurated as First Stage Block in October, 1956 and converted into Second Stage Block in 1961. It extends over an area of 304 square miles covering 88 villages with a population of 36,000. It is connected by a tarred road to the district headquarters which is 39 miles away, and has also a railway station of the same name, on the Ahmadabad-Delhi main metre-gauge line.

Progress in this block up to the end of 1960-61 has also been encouraging. In the sphere of agriculturo, 2,26,745 kg. of improved seeds, 62,257 kg. of all types of chemical fertilizers, 82 improved iron ploughs and 15 seed drillers, besides other agricultural implements, have been distributed. To improve the water supply, two *kachha* and 204 *pucca* wells were constructed and 22 *pucca* wells repaired. In order to improve the breed of the animals, eight cattle breeding centres were opened, 1,286 cattle were castrated and 20,024 vaccinated. A total of 386 agricultural demonstrations had been organized.

In the field of co-operation seven multipurpose credit co-operatives, five industrial co-operatives and 17 agricultural co-operative societies had been started.

For the purification of drinking water in the villages, eight wells were disinfected. In order to promote social education in the rural areas, the block had established 22 reading rooms, 25 youth clubs and 43 adult education centres. New types of smokeless *chullas* were tried on an experimental basis and a total of 14 *chullas* had been installed by the end of March, 1961. Public participation in this block was also encouraging as works worth Rs. 1,69,000 had been done through *sharmdan* (voluntary labour contribution).

#### **Sirohi**

The Sirohi Block was inaugurated in June, 1958 as N.E.S. block and became First Stage Block in April, 1959.

It covers an area of 729 sq. km. covering 84 villages with a population of nearly 56,000 persons. By the end of 1960-61 for the development of agriculture and irrigation in the area, 30 *pucca* wells, 25 *kuchha* wells had been constructed and 25 wells repaired. Further 68 pumping sets had been installed to make water available for irrigation. As a measure of land improvement 40 acres of land had been reclaimed. In order to improve the breed of cattles, 5 Cattle Breeding Centres had been set up, while 1,467 animals castrated and 3,551 vaccinated. 3,62,978 kg. of improved seeds and 6,942 kg. of chemical fertilizers, 46 improved iron ploughs and 23 seed drillers were distributed among the agriculturists. To prepare good manure, 526 compost pits were dug.

For promotion of social education in the rural areas 10 recreation clubs and 2 Adult Centres had been set-up. Finally, through voluntary labour or *shramdan*, works worth Rs. 7,17,000 had been done since the inception of the Block.

#### Sheoganj

The Block was inaugurated in 1960, as a pre-extension Block and attained second stage in April, 1961. It covers 69 villages, having an area of 555 sq. km. and covering a population of nearly 45,000 persons.

For irrigation and drinking purposes 12 *kuchha* and 4 *pucca* wells were constructed, while 14 *pucca* wells were renovated. Seven pumping sets were installed and 30 acres of land was reclaimed during this period.

By the end of 1960-61, 18,550 kg. of all types of chemical fertilizers and 1,32,239 kg. of improved seeds were distributed among the cultivators, and 136 compost pits were dug to prepare good quality of manure. In order to improve the breed of the live-stock, 3 Cattle Breeding Centres were started, 1,335 animals were castrated and 3,600 vaccinated.

#### Reodar

Reodar Development Block was inaugurated in October, 1959 as a Shadow Block and is running in the same stage till now (1961). It covers 120 villages, having an area of 761 sq. km. with a population of 58,000 persons.

By the end of 1960-61, 10 *kachha* and 72 *pucca* wells had been constructed, 9 *pucca* wells had been repaired and 57 pumping sets had been set up. Efforts had been made to enhance cultivable area and under this programme, 5,825 acres of land had been reclaimed. In order to increase yield from the lands, 24,671 kg. of improved seeds, 15 improved iron ploughs and 15 seed drillers were distributed to the cultivators.

In the field of co-operation, 81 credit co-operatives and 6 industrial co-operative societies had been started.

A total number of 136 animals were castrated and 4,054 vaccinated. In order to impart adult education 15 adult education centres were started. Through voluntary labour, works worth Rs. 60,000 had been completed in the block.

The following statement gives the sanctioned and actual staff strength as on 31st March, 1961 for Pindwara, Sirohi and Abu Blocks and that on 30th June, 1961 for Sheoganj and Reodar in the following categories of personnel:-

S. No.	Designation	Pind- Sir- Sheo- Reo- Abu wara ohi ganj dar						
		S. A.	S. A.	S. A.	S. A.	S. A.	S. A.	* S. A.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
1. Block Development Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Agriculture Extension Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3. Animal Husbandry Extension Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4. Extension Officer Co-operative		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Veterinary Doctor		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6. Industries Extension Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7. Panchayat Extension Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8. Social Education Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9. Lady Social Education Officer		1	1	1	1	1	1	1

\*S=Sanctioned.

A=Actual.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. Sanitary Inspector ..	..	.. 1 - 1 - - - -	1 1			
11. Progress Assistant ..	..	.. 1 1 1 1 1 - - -	1 1			
12. Compounder .. ..	..	.. - - - - - -	1 1			
13. Deputy Inspector of Schools	..	.. - - - - 1 1 1 1 - -				
14. Stick-man .. ..	..	.. 2 - 2 2 2 - 1 - 2 2				
15. Vaccinator .. ..	..	.. - - 1 1 1 1 - - 1 1				

### PLANNING

The First Five Year Plan of Rajasthan endeavoured to improve irrigation, transport and educational facilities in the State. A substantial amount of money was also spent on social services. The plan had not been broken up district-wise and only schemes of immediate importance were finalised and implemented in the districts. Expenditure figures of First Plan for each district, are not available. The achievements gained during the First Plan period were moderate, but the work done during this period started a chain process which got momentum during the Second Plan.

The Second Five Year Plan was outlined more elaborately and each district had a plan of its own. The table given below shows the expenditure incurred in various sectors in the district, during the Second Five Year Plan:

<i>Sectors</i>	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
Agriculture .. ..	12.47
Consolidation of Holdings .. ..	0.16
Animal Husbandry .. ..	0.24
Co-operation .. ..	3.38

<i>Sectors</i>					<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
Forest and Soil Conservation	..	..	..	..	6.95
Fisheries	..	..	..	..	0.05
Community Development & N. E. S.	..	..	..	..	25.78
Irrigation	..	..	..	..	32.35
Industries	..	..	..	..	4.12
Roads	..	..	..	..	23.34
Education	..	..	..	..	22.31
Medical & Health	..	..	..	..	3.15
Ayurved	..	..	..	..	0.56
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	6.88
Housing	..	..	..	..	2.11
Labour & Labour Welfare	..	..	..	..	0.07
Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes	..	..	..	..	2.82
Publicity	..	..	..	..	1.22
Tourism	..	..	..	..	0.38

Total plan expenditure for all sectors amounted to Rs. 1,49,30,000. Figures for each plan-year are as follows:—

<i>Year</i>					<i>Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1956-57	..	..	..	..	13.34
1957-58	..	..	..	..	16.90

Year.	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1958-59	33.14
1959-60	40.57
1960-61	50.25

Some of the detailed achievements in the sphere of agriculture by the end of the plan period were as follows:—

In the field of minor irrigation one tank and 321 wells were constructed and deepened. 62 pumping sets and 36 persian wheels were also installed. The respective targets were 9 tanks, 244 wells, 43 pumping sets and 56 persian wheels.

The targets and achievements in regard to the distribution of fertilizers were as follows:—

	( Figures in quintals)	
	Distribution	Target
Ammonium Sulphate	6,604	4,064
Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate	335	51
Other Nitrogenous Fertilizer	376	721
Super Phosphate	2,641	51

The quantities of improved seeds distributed were as follows:—

	(Kilogrammes)
Wheat	16,22,931
Barley	18,737
Gram	2,799
Maize	45,424

<i>Bajra</i> .. .. .	2,575
Vegetable seeds .. .. .	11,944

Soil conservation activities were carried out on 22,778 acres of land. Land protected from grass-hoppers was 908- $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, from rats 12,512 acres and from vegetable pests and diseases 1,018- $\frac{1}{2}$  acres and from weed 410 acres. Nine hundred and fifty-seven improved agricultural implements were distributed.

The work of consolidation of holdings in the district was taken up in the areas where, firstly, the problem of fragmentation of holdings was serious and, secondly, where some plan projects were started. Accordingly, consolidation work commenced in some villages of the Sheoganj tahsil and notifications to that effect were issued in the year, 1959. Till the end of the year 1961, field work in 23 villages of the tahsil, in a total area of 1,04,291 acres of land, had been completed. In no other part of the district the work of consolidation of holdings has been taken up.

The following year-wise statement of targets and achievements of the Co-operative Department also shows that progress has been fairly satisfactory in that sphere:—

	<i>Targets</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
<b>1956-57</b>		
Organization of small size societies ..	21	21
<b>1957-58</b>		
Organization of small size societies ..	30	30
Organization of central co-operative bank .. .. .	1	1
Revitalization of small size societies ..	2	2
<b>1958-59</b>		
Organization of small size societies ..	40	9
Revitalization of small size societies ..	9	9
Organization of large size societies ..	2	2

	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
1959-60		
Organization of small size societies ..	40	40
Revitalization of small size societies ..	30	30
Organization of land mortgage banks..	1	1
Organization of district co-operative unions .. .. .	1	1
Organization of marketing societies ..	2	2
Organization of joint farming societies..	5	4
Construction of small godowns ..	2	1
Construction of godowns for marketing societies .. .. .	2	..
1960-61		
Revitalization of small size societies ..	20	15
Organization of marketing societies ..	1	1
Organization of service co-operative societies .. .. .	45	32
Organization of credit unions ..	2	..
Organization of supervising unions ..	1	..

During the Second Five Year Plan 59 miles of road was constructed and improved by the Public Works Department, with an actual expenditure at the rate of 0.40 lakh of rupees per mile while the allotted expenditure was at the rate of 0.28 lakh per mile.

At the end of First Plan there were, in the district, 13 hospitals/dispensaries with 114 beds, and by 1960 the number of hospitals and dispensaries was raised to 14. During the Second Plan period 3 dispensaries were opened. In the year 1955-56 there were two veterinary hospitals and one dispensary. By the end of the Second Plan, one veterinary dispensary was also added to it.

During the First Plan period no water supply scheme was taken up in the district. In the Second Plan, water supply schemes were started at Sirohi, Mt. Abu and Abu Road and a total amount of Rs. 4.90 lakhs was spent on them. Except Sirohi Water Supply Scheme the remaining shall be

completed during the Third Plan period and more than 35,000 persons shall be benefited by these schemes.

During the First Plan period, Ora, West Banas, Khemri, Sukri, and Angori Irrigation Works were started, and Rs. 12.74 lakhs were spent on it. During the Second Plan Rs. 52.36 lakhs were spent over these schemes but the schemes of Khemri and Angori could not be started during the plan period.

A sum of Rs. 2.11 lakhs was distributed during the Second Plan for the purpose of house construction and a total number of 39 houses were completed by 1960-61 while 70 were under construction.

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

At the time Erskine wrote the gazetteer of the Sirohi State it was ruled by the Maharao with the assistance of a *Diwan*. His Highness' personal staff consisted of a Private Secretary and a small clerical establishment. The *Diwan*, besides supervising all branches of the administration, had been in immediate charge of the Forest Department since September, 1906; he was aided by a *Naib-Diwan*, who was also responsible for the general working of the anglo-vernacular school at the capital. Other important officials, all of whom were subordinate to the *Diwan*, were: (i) the Revenue Commissioner, who was the head of the Revenue and Finance Departments; (ii) the Judicial Officer, who was also Superintendent of the Central Jail; (iii) the Customs Superintendent; and (iv) the Superintendent of Police.

From 1909 to 1916-17 the office of *Diwan* was designated as "*Musahib-i-Ala*" and was held by the heir apparent. The rights of Darbar vis-a-vis Jāgirdars were defined by the Macpherson Committee appointed in 1920-21.

A State Council was established on October 1, 1940 and from then onwards the administration began to be conducted with the help of this Council with the ruler as the President. It originally consisted of the Chief Minister as Vice-President and two other members designated as the Home Member and the Revenue Member. The distribution of portfolios among the members of the Council was as follows:—

Chief Minister	Political, Finance, P.W.D., Judicial including Registration, General Administration.
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Revenue Member	Revenue, <i>Jagiri</i> , Land Records, Survey and Settlement, <i>Sanadat</i> , Customs, Court of Wards, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sale of Land, Devasthan villages and their funds, Revenue Contracts (Motor Service etc.).
Home Member	Education, Medical, Excise, Police, Forests, Municipalities, Jails, Stables and Garage, Miscellaneous Minor Departments.

The Council was an executive body, each member having been delegated powers under the Constitution of the Council. Heads of Departments were responsible to the Member holding the relevant portfolio. Such matters as did not fall within the powers of an individual Member or other matters requiring serious consideration or pertaining to general administration were referred to the Chief Minister or the Council. The ruler, however, continued to be the "source of all authority and power in the State"<sup>1</sup>.

The Council was enlarged in 1942-43 by the appointment of a General Member. The distribution of portfolios after the reshuffle stood as follows<sup>2</sup>:—

Chief Minister	Political, Finance, P.W.D., Judicial including Registration, General Administration.
Revenue Member	Revenue, <i>Jagiri</i> , Land Records, Survey and Settlement, <i>Sanadat</i> , Customs, Sale of Land, Revenue Contracts (Motor Service) etc.
Home Member	Education, Medical, Excise, Police, Jails, Garage and Workshop.
General Member	Forests, Municipalities, Court of Wards, Agriculture, Horticulture, Devasthans and their funds, Stables, Minor Departments.

1. Sirohi State Administration Report, 1943-44, p. 7.

2. *Ibid* 1942-43, p. 155.



The establishment of a Central Advisory Committee was sanctioned during 1940-41 with a view to affording the people an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Darbar matters of public concern. It could make suggestions as an advisory body to the Darbar and was competent to discuss such subjects as education, sanitation, medical relief, road development, trade and commerce, cattle breeding, social legislation, economic well being of agriculturists and rural uplift.

Even though the establishment of the Central Advisory Committee was sanctioned in 1940-41, it was inaugurated only on April 10, 1942 and it held its first meeting on that very date.

The Committee consisted of 22 members besides the Revenue Member, who was its Chairman. Of these, 17 were non-official members and 5 official, as detailed below:—

(a) Non-official members:

Representatives of the Tahsil Advisory Committees	8
Representatives of Municipalities	2
Representatives of Jagirdars	2
Representatives of <i>Chhutbhais</i>	1
Representatives of Agriculturists	2
Members representing other interests	2

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(b) Official members:

Chief Medical Officer  
 Chief Engineer  
 Superintendent of Education  
 Customs and Forest Superintendent  
 One Senior member from the Revenue Department.

The 10 members returned by the Tahsil Advisory Committees and Municipalities were elected by these bodies from among their non-official members. As for the 5 members from the Jagirdars, *Chhutbhais* and Agriculturists, they were taken from a panel selected by each class. The remaining 2 non-official members were nominated by the Darbar directly from any classes or communities or interests,

which, in his opinion, were not otherwise sufficiently represented.

The official members were nominated by the Darbar and held membership on the Committee, *ex-officio*.

The term of office of a non-official member of the Committee was 2 years.

The constitution of the Committee was liberalized in 1943-44 when the number of non-official members was increased to 24.

These 24 members were to consist of the following:

1. Representatives of Tahsils (three from each tahsil except Sirohi which sent two)	14
2. Sirohi town	2
3. Municipalities	3
4. Jagirdar class	2
5. <i>Chhutbhai</i> s	1
6. Interests not otherwise sufficiently represented.	2

Under the amended Constitution the representatives of tahsils and Sirohi town were to be returned through direct elections on the basis of adult franchise. Jagirdars and *Chhutbhai*s were to be represented by persons selected from the panel submitted by each class. Representatives of other interests were to be nominated by the Darbar.

A member of the Sirohi Bar Mr. D. N. Oswal, was appointed to conduct elections, which were held in March, 1945. They were, however, boycotted by the Praja Mandal.

A further step by the State towards constitutional reforms was taken with the appointment, on September 30, 1946, of a Committee of seven people to advise "generally on the future Constitution of the State, and other allied matters as franchise, constituencies and representation of special interests."<sup>1</sup>

1. Sirohi State Administration Report, 1945-46, p.98.

The personnel of the Committee was as follows:—

1. Shree Mohabat Singh of Motagam.
2. Shree D. N. Oswal, Bar-At-Law, Kalandri.
3. Shree Gokul Bhai Bhatt, Sirohi.
4. Shree Dunga Ram Parihar, Sheoganj.
5. Shree Ganpat Singh Rathore, Sirohi.
6. Seth Matadin, Abu Road.
7. Shree Ibrahim Musa, Sheoganj.

The Committee reported before the advent of Independence (in August, 1947) but no concrete steps seem to have been taken on its report.

On January 23, 1946 the Maharaja died heirless and Tej Singh, a minor of the senior sub-branch of the ruling family was selected as successor.<sup>1</sup>

The new Maharao being a minor, the State Council was re-designated as the Council of Administration, with the Chief Minister as the President. The other Members of the State Council continued to hold their posts. However, real authority now passed on to the hands of the Political Agent, as all matters which previously required the sanction or even guidance from the ruler, were now referred to the Political Agent in his capacity as the supervisor of the minority administration.<sup>2</sup>

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1. "Consequent on the death of His Highness Maharajadhiraj Maharao Sir Sarup Ram Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Maharao of Sirohi, without leaving any heir male of his body or an adopted son, the question of succession to the Sirohi Gadi has been left to be determined by the Paramount Power by selection as an act of State.

"After careful consideration of all the claims and in the best interest of the State, His Excellency the Viceroy has, in exercise of his discretion and with approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, been pleased to select Tej Singh, son of Raj Saheban Bhopal Singh of the senior sub-branch of the Mandar branch of the Sirohi Ruling family, and to recognise him, on behalf of His Majesty the King Emperor, as the Maharao of Sirohi in succession to His Late Highness."

Communique issued by the Crown Representative on 11-5-46, announced by Lt. Col. G.B. Williams, Political Agent, Western Rajputana States. (Sirohi State Administration Report, 1945-46, p.5).

2. Sirohi State Administration Report, 1945-46, p. 3.

This administration continued upto the eve of independence. On August 14, 1947 a Regency Council was formed with the Queen Mother as the President. Other members of the Council were, (1) the father of the minor ruler, (2) the ruler of Danta and (3) the ruler of Bhawnagar.

The old ministry resigned on September 15, 1947 and three new ministers including a representative of the Praja Mandal were appointed as ministers. In 1948, the strength of the ministry was raised to four, and thus another representative of the Praja Mandal was added to the Council of Ministers.

Events hereafter leading, at first to the sequestration of a part of the State and, later, to its remerger in the parent tract are described in the 'History' chapter. It will be sufficient for the purpose of this chapter to recapitulate milestones.

In March, 1948, for the purpose of civil supplies administration, the State was taken away from the Rajputana Agency and placed under the charge of Western Indian States Agency<sup>1</sup>. On November 8, 1948 the Regent Maharani signed an agreement with the Government of India entrusting full powers relating to the State to the Central Government with effect from January 5, 1949. The Government of India handed over the area to the then Bombay Government to be administered on their behalf. The State was partitioned on January 25, 1950. This decision was implemented by means of an order under section 290A of the Government of India Act, 1935 issued in respect of the areas merged into Bombay and a notification under the Extra-Provincial Jurisdiction Act, issued in respect of the areas merged into Rajasthan<sup>2</sup>.

1. According to *Rajputane-ka-Itihas, Sirohi Rajya*, by Jagdish Singh Gahlot (Ed. Sukbir Singh) Gahlot and G. R. Parihar, Jodhpur (1960, p.93) on 13th September, 1947 the "Regency Board" of Sirohi expressed a desire to join United Rajasthan convened by Udaipur Maharana, but this could not materialize. The book also mentions Sirohi becoming a part of the Gujarat States Agency on February 1, 1948.

<sup>2</sup> See appendix at the end of the chapter.

The area given to Bombay became a taluka of the Banaskantha district of that State and the area coming to Rajasthan was made a separate district under the Commissionership of Jodhpur, and named Sirohi after the name of the erstwhile State.

However, the people of the new district, as indeed of the whole State of Rajasthan, were not reconciled to the fact of partition and constant agitations and demands were made for retrocession of the sequestered area. The matter was referred to the States Reorganization Commission, who upheld the Rajasthan demand. On November 1, 1956, therefore, the entire area previously merged in Bombay in 1950, was returned to Rajasthan and was remerged in Sirohi.

*Administrative divisions.*—During the early years of this century, for administrative purposes, there were nine districts or tahsils, in the State, each under an official termed Tahsildar, who exercised both revenue and judicial powers within his own particular charge (subject to the general control of the Revenue Commissioner and the Judicial Officer as the case may be), but who had since 1906, been in no sense, a police officer. The nine tahsils were (i) Abu; (ii) Jhora; (iii) Khuni and Sheoganj; (iv) Magra; (v) Mandar; (vi) Pamera; (vii) Pindwara; (viii) Rohera; and (ix) Santpur and Bhakar. Each Tahsildar had two assistants (Naib-tahsildars) one for judicial, and the other, for revenue work, and a number of minor officers, whose duties corresponded to those of Patwaris. Besides the tahsils above mentioned, there were two towns, which were treated as separate units and were outside the charge of any tahsildar, namely; Abu Road (or Kharari), which was under a Magistrate, and Sirohi which was under a Kotwal. Lastly, the Magistrate of Abu (an Assistant to the Governor General's Agent) and the Commandant of the 43rd Regiment at Erinpura possessed certain judicial powers at these places respectively; the former officer had jurisdiction not only in the civil station of Abu and the road leading thence to the railway station, including the bazar at Kharari, but also in the village of Anadra at the foot of the western slope of the hill.

Before 1940, when some administrative reorganization was done, the State was divided into 15 tahsils. The Tahsildar discharged both revenue and judicial functions. For revenue matters he was under the Revenue Department

and for judicial function under the District Magistrate of the Division concerned (there were two Divisions, viz., Eastern and Western with headquarters at Abu Road and Sirohi respectively). As judicial officers, the Tahsildars exercised not only magisterial powers but also had civil jurisdiction.

In view of this heavy demand on the time of the Tahsildars and the fact that the number of tahsils was unnecessarily large considering the area of the State, a reorganization was carried out in December, 1940, the number of tahsils excluding the *Hath Kharch* and *Sarneshwarji* tahsils was reduced to six (including the sub-tahsil of Delwara) as under:—

1. Sirohi, 2. Abu Road, 3. Pindwara, 4. Reodar, 5. Sheoganj; and 6. Delwara.

Civil jurisdiction was transferred from Tahsildars to newly appointed Sub-Judges. The post of District Magistrate at Abu Road was abolished as the Sub-Judge at Abu Road had first class magisterial powers, and the District Magistrate of Sirohi was invested with powers of District Magistrate for the whole State.

The magisterial powers of Tahsildars, after this reorganization were raised to Class I in respect of Pindwara and Sheoganj and to Class II in respect of Sirohi, Abu Road and Reodar Tahsils.

In revenue matters the Tahsildars enjoyed powers of an original court and this saved the cultivators the trouble of running down to Sirohi for small matters. Bailiffs were appointed, wherever necessary, to help speedy disposal of the execution of civil decrees and timely service of summons.

At present (1961) the district is divided into two sub-divisions, Sirohi and Abu. The former consists of three tahsils—Sirohi, Sheoganj and Reodar<sup>1</sup> and the latter, two—Abu Road and Pindwara. There is a Panchayat Samiti also at every tahsil headquarters. The area, population and the number of towns and villages in each tahsil is given in chapter I.

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1. Reodar tahsil was transferred from Abu sub-division to Sirohi sub-division, in June, 1960, vide Rajasthan Government Order No. F. 29 (23) Rev/D/60, dated June 4, 1960.

The immediate authority over the district was the Divisional Commissioner whose headquarters were at Jodhpur. In 1961, however, the post of Commissioner was abolished with the result that the Collector now has to deal with the Government direct in administrative matters.

*Administrative Pattern.*—The Collector is, in fact, the pivot of district administration, around whom the whole administration revolves. In addition to his revenue duties, he also works as District Magistrate and District Development Officer. Since the beginning of the First Plan period, development activities have taken up an increasing amount of his time and although in October, 1959, the system of Democratic Decentralisation has been introduced in order to give the people an opportunity to be intimately associated with development work, the Collector is still responsible for co-ordination between the local bodies and the various departments of the Government. In his role as the District Development Officer, the Collector is assisted by an officer designated as Assistant to Collector (Development and Planning) and *ex-officio* Secretary, Zila Parishad. Each Panchayat Samiti is supervised by an officer called Vikas Adhikari. This set up is described in detail in the chapter, 'Local Self-Government'.

The various duties of the Collector, including those mentioned above may be broadly classified as follows:—

(a) As Collector he is responsible for:—

- (i) proper management of Government lands;
- (ii) recovery of land revenue, cesses, and other Government dues;
- (iii) the administration of Revenue laws;
- (iv) preparation of land records;
- (v) administration of estates placed under the management of the Court of Wards or the direct management of the Government;
- (vi) grant of loans to agriculturists for agricultural improvement;
- (vii) administration of Stamp Laws.

(b) As District Magistrate he is Head of the criminal administration and controls the Police and is responsible for:—

- (i) licensing of arms, explosives, petroleum and cinemas;
- (ii) grant of passports, extension of visas, and control of foreigners;
- (iii) maintenance of law and order and proper administration of criminal laws in the District.

c) As District Officer he is—

- (i) steward of the Government in the matter of general administration in the District;
- (ii) responsible for proper execution of Government orders;
- (iii) in control of litigation on behalf of the Government either initiated by the Government or brought against the Government by private persons;
- (iv) responsible for co-ordination of important activities of all Government Departments having branch offices in the District;
- (v) charged with the duty of proper execution and supervision of all Development Schemes initiated by various Departments in the District and to serve as the Chief Co-ordinating Authority on behalf of the Government at the District level;
- (vi) in the general charge of the Treasury as laid down in rule 4 (2) of the Treasury Rules.

The District Manual divides the District Office (Collectorate) into the following sections:—

1. Judicial

2. Land Records



3. Revenue
  - A-Case work Branch
  - B-Demands Branch
4. Court of Wards
5. Development
6. General
7. Establishment and Accounts.

It is, however, open to the Collector to make inter-branch transfer of subjects or open extra sections depending upon local conditions, workload in a particular branch and other factors. In the Collectorate of Sirohi, the various sections are, Development, Judicial, Revenue, Land Records, Panchayat, Elections, Famines and Supplies. The clerical staff consists of an Office Superintendent, a Stenographer, nine Upper Division Clerks, an Accounts Clerk for Development Department and 14 Lower Division Clerks. There is one Sub-Inspector and Lower Division Clerk to look after the Transport section. The Land Records section is manned by a Sadar Quanungo, an Assistant Sadar Quanungo and a Lower Division Clerk.

*Treasury.*—The Collector is also in the over all charge of the Treasury and is responsible for the due accounting of all receipts, disbursements, returns and the custody of the valuables. The treasury at Sirohi is a banking one. Sub-treasuries at tahsil headquarters are non-banking. The treasury at district headquarters is under the charge of a Treasury Officer, while elsewhere the Tahsildars work as Sub-Treasury Officers. The staff of the treasury office at District headquarters consists of one Accountant, two Accounts Clerks, three U.D.Cs., four L.D.Cs. and four Class IV servants, besides two L.D.Cs for *Jagir* work.

Directly subordinate to the Collector in the administration, are the Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at Sirohi and Mt. Abu.

The Sub-Divisional Officers in their jurisdictions have revenue, magisterial and executive powers. These officers work under the supervision of the Collector. The staff of the S.D.O. at Sirohi consists of one U.D.C., three L.D.Cs and three Class IV Servants while S.D.O. Mount Abu has one U.D.C, five L.D.Cs. and three Class IV servants.

Next in the hierarchical line of administration are the five Tahsildars, two of whom are temporarily assisted by Naib-Tahsildars. The staff of Sirohi tahsil is, one Tahsil Revenue Accountant, one Upper Division Clerk, one Accountant, five Lower Division Clerks, four Process Servers, a Jamadar and two peons besides two Lower Division Clerks for Jagir work. Abu Road Tahsil has a staff of two Upper Division Clerks, nine Lower Division Clerks and nine peons. The staff at Reodar consists of a Tahsil Revenue Accountant, two Upper Division Clerks, seven Lower Division Clerks, two class IV servants, four Camel Sawars and a Jamadar. Tahsil Sheoganj has a complement of a Tahsil Revenue Accountant, two Upper Division Clerks, six Lower Division Clerks and five Class IV servants, while the fifth tahsil, viz., Pindwara is manned by a Tahsil Revenue Accountant, two Upper Division Clerks, nine Lower Division Clerks and six Class IV servants.

Tahsils are divided into Girdawar circles each in the charge of an official called Qanungo or Revenue Inspector. The Girdawar circles are sub-divided into Patwar *Hulqas*, this being the basic unit of administration (for land revenue). The Patwari maintains the land registers and is also required to report any untoward happenings in his area. The annual collection of land revenue is at present done through Chaudharies. A full description of this pattern is given in the chapter on Revenue Administration.

In former times, the emphasis of the district administration was on the collection of revenue and maintenance of law and order. Though these are still important, the main stress has shifted to development work and thus the welfare departments are now playing an increasingly important role in the district administration. While the Collector, S.D.Os. and Tahsildars are in the vertical line of administration, what may be called the horizontal line of administration comprises the Collector and the district level officers. It is not necessary that an officer having jurisdiction over the district for a particular subject should be headquartered in the district itself. As a measure of economy some districts have been clubbed together. Thus an officer stationed at Sirohi may also exercise jurisdiction over the adjacent districts like Pali and Jalore while another having his headquarters at one of these places may control Sirohi for his particular subject. A district level officers' meeting is held

once a month at which policies and work-programmes are discussed and plans drawn up for swift action. The Collector presides at these meetings and discusses with district officers the programmes being implemented departmentally or through the Panchayat Samitis.

Of special importance in the administration, is the Police hierarchy, which is described in detail in another chapter. The Superintendent of Police and the Collector work in close co-operation in order to maintain law and order. As far as Judicial matters are concerned, the highest authority in the district is the Civil and Additional Sessions Judge.

The following is the list of district level officers of Rajasthan Government for the district: —

1. Chief Medical Officer.
2. Divisional Forest Officer.
3. Assistant Commissioner, Excise & Taxation.
4. Assistant Engineer, P.W.D. (B. & R.).
5. District Agriculture Officer.
6. Assistant Engineer, Survey & Investigation.
7. Assistant Registrar, Co-operatives.
8. District Industries Officer.
9. Inspector of Schools.
10. Public Relations Officer.
11. Assistant Engineer, Minor Irrigation.
12. District Social Welfare Officer.
13. Foreman, Mines & Geology.
14. District Employment Officer.
15. District Ayurvedic Officer (Pali).
16. Tourist Assistant, Mt. Abu.
17. District Animal Husbandry Officer (Jalore).
18. Community Projects Officer (Industries).
19. Assistant Engineer, C. D. Works.
20. Assistant Engineer, Water Works.
21. Assistant to Collector (Dev. & Planning) and Ex-Officio Secretary, Zila Parishad.
22. Executive Engineer, B. & R.
23. Executive Engineer, Irrigation.

The office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) South Division situated at Sirohi town has jurisdiction over the districts of Pali, Jalore and Sirohi. There are Sub-divisional offices at

Mount Abu and Sirohi. The Divisional Office is controlled by an Executive Engineer and has a strength of one Divisional Accountant, one Stenographer, one Head Clerk, seven U. D. Cs., 11 L.D. Cs., one Senior Draftsman, one Junior Draftsman, two Engineering subordinates, one Foreman and nine class IV officials. Each sub-division is headed by an Assistant Engineer who is assisted by four Engineering subordinates, one U.D.C., one L.D.C. and two class IV employees.

There is also an office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation with jurisdiction extending over three districts viz., Sirohi, Pali and Jalore. At the Divisional Office, the Executive Engineer is assisted by four U. D. Cs., six L. D. Cs. and Divisional Accountant, Head Clerk, Senior Draftsman, Junior Draftsman, Computer, Tracer and Foreman one each and seven class IV employees. The Minor Irrigation Works sub-division at Sirohi has an Assistant Engineer, four Overseers, a Lower Division Clerk and one peon. The other two sub-divisions are located at Swaroopganj. Of these, the Western Banas Dam Sub-Division has an Assistant Engineer, an Upper Division Clerk, a Lower Division Clerk, five Overseers and two peons. The third sub-division i.e., the Western Banas Canal Sub-Division has a staff similar to that of the Dam Sub-Division.

There is a separate office at Sirohi headed by an Assistant Engineer to look after the water supply of Sirohi and Jalore districts. The staff consists of five Engineering Subordinates, two Lower Division Clerks and a Store Keeper.

The district also has an Assistant Engineer, Survey and Investigation whose staff consists of six Engineering Subordinates, a Junior Draftsman, two Lower Division Clerks and a class IV employee.

Among other offices the Chief Medical Officer has two Upper Division Clerks, four Lower Division Clerks and six Class IV employees.

The staff with the Divisional Forest Officer Sirohi consists of an Accountant, a Head Clerk, three Upper Division Clerks, 13 Lower Division Clerks, a Driver, a Cleaner, an Orderly, two Peons, five Rangers, two Deputy Rangers, 23 Foresters, eight Head Guards, 97 Forest Guards and two Chowkidars.

97 Forest Guards and two Chowkidars. There is also a Game Warden who has a staff of a Lower Division Clerk, eight Game Watchers and an Orderly.

The District Agriculture Officer has an Agriculture Assistant, two Upper Division Clerks, a Lower Division Clerk, a Fieldman, a Plant Protection Supervisor, a Horticulture Assistant, a Research Assistant, an Overseer, two Fieldmen, for soil conservation schemes, three Drivers and a Class IV servant.

The Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies has a Technical Assistant, two Upper Division Clerks, four Executive Inspectors, nine Assistant Inspectors, and four Audit Inspectors.

The office of the Inspector of Schools, has three Upper Division Clerks, five Lower Division Clerks and five Class IV employees.

The Social Welfare Officer has jurisdiction over Sirohi and Jalore districts and has a staff of two Inspectors (one each for Jalore and Sirohi districts) an Upper Division Clerk, two Lower Division Clerks, and an Accountant.

The establishment of the Mines and Geology Department in the district consists of the office of the Senior Mines Foreman which is manned by two Lower Division Clerks and three Mine Guards.

The District Employment Officer has one Upper Division Clerk, one Lower Division Clerk, one Guide and two Peons.

The Community Projects Officer (Industries) has an Upper Division Clerk-cum-Stenographer, a Driver and a Class IV employee.

The office of the Deputy Collector, Jagirs, has a complement of an Accountant, two Upper Division Clerks, one Jagir Accounts Clerk and three Lower Division Clerks.

The Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation controls Sirohi and Jalore districts and is assisted by an Assistant Sales Tax Officer, 11 Inspectors, three Upper Division Clerks, 16 Lower Division Clerks, and five Moharrirs.

The Public Relations Officer has a staff of one Lower Division Clerk, a Cinema Operator, a Van Driver and a peon besides a *Khalasi* for the Cinema van.

The staff of the District Industries Officer, consists of an Upper Division Clerk, a Lower Division Clerk and two Class IV servants.

There is a Tourist Assistant at Mount Abu whose staff consists of a Lower Division Clerk and a Class IV servant.

The Secretary, Zila Parishad has an Upper Division Clerk, two Lower Division Clerks and a peon.

The District Social Welfare Officer has jurisdiction over Sirohi and Jalore districts. His staff consists of a Welfare Inspector, an Accounts Clerk-cum-Cashier, an Upper Division Clerk, two Lower Division Clerks and two Class IV officials.

Sirohi district does not have a separate Animal Husbandry Officer. It falls under the jurisdiction of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Jalore. Similarly, the district, for purposes of Ayurvedic Dispensaries, falls under the jurisdiction of the Inspector at Pali.

## APPENDIX I

## SIROHI MERGER AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT MADE THIS eighth day of November 1948 between the Governor-General of India and His Highness the Maharao of Sirohi.

WHEREAS in the best interests of the State of Sirohi as well as of the Dominion of India it is desirable to provide for the administration of the said State by or under the authority of the Dominion Government;

AND WHEREAS His Highness the Maharao has accepted the advice given to him by the Dominion Government in this behalf;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:—

## ARTICLE 1

His Highness the Maharao of Sirohi hereby cedes to the Dominion Government full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the governance of the State and agrees to transfer the administration of the State to the Dominion Government on the 5th January 1949 (hereinafter referred to as "the said day").

As from the said day the Dominion Government will be competent to exercise the said powers, authority and jurisdiction in such manner and through such agency as it may think fit.

## ARTICLE 2

His Highness the Maharao shall continue to enjoy the same personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles which he would have enjoyed had this agreement not been made.

## ARTICLE 3

His Highness the Maharao shall with effect from the said day be entitled to receive from the revenues of the State annually for his privy purse the sum of Rs. 2,12,600 free of all taxes. This amount is intended to cover all the expenses of the Ruler and his family, including expenses on account of his personal staff, maintenance of his residences, marriages and other ceremonies, etc., and will neither be increased nor reduced for any reason whatsoever.

The Government of India undertakes that the said sum of rupees 2,12,600 shall be paid to His Highness the Maharao in four equal instalments in advance at the beginning of each quarter from the State treasury or at such other treasury as may be specified by the Government of India.

## ARTICLE 4

His Highness the Maharao shall be entitled to the full ownership, use and enjoyment of all private properties (as distinct from State properties) belonging to him on the date of this agreement.

His Highness the Maharao will furnish to the Dominion Government before the 15th March, 1949 an inventory of all the immovable property, securities and cash balance held by him as such private property.

If any dispute arises as to whether any item of property is the private property of His Highness the Maharao or State property, it shall be referred to a judicial officer qualified to be appointed as a High Court Judge, and the decision of that officer shall be final and binding on both parties.

## ARTICLE 5

All the members of His Highness' family, including Her Highness Maharani Regent Saheba, shall be entitled to all the personal privileges, dignities and titles enjoyed by them whether within or outside the territories of the State, immediately before the 15th day of August 1947.



## ARTICLE 6

The Dominion Government guarantees the succession, according to law and custom, to the *gaddi* of the State and to His Highness the Maharao's personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles.

## ARTICLE 7

No enquiry shall be made by or under the authority of the Government of India, and no proceedings shall lie in any Court in Sirohi, against His Highness the Maharao, whether in a personal capacity or otherwise, in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him or under his authority during the period of his administration of that State.

## ARTICLE 8

(1) The Government of India hereby guarantees either the continuance in service of the permanent members of the Public Services of Sirohi on conditions which will be not less advantageous than those on which they were serving before the date on which the administration of Sirohi is made over to the Government of India or the payment of reasonable compensation.

(2) The Government of India further guarantees the continuance of pensions and leave salaries sanctioned by His Highness the Maharao to members of the Public Services of the State who have retired or proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, before the date on which the administration of Sirohi is made over to the Government of India.

## ARTICLE 9

Except with the previous sanction of the Government of India, no proceedings, civil or criminal, shall be instituted against any person in respect of any act done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duties as a servant of the State before the day on which the administration is made over to the Government of India.

In confirmation whereof Mullath Kadangi Vellodi, Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of States

has appended his signature on behalf and with the authority of the Governor-General of India and Her Highness the Dowager Maharani Krishna Kunwar Ba, President of the Regency Board, Sirohi has appended her signature for and on behalf of His Highness the Minor Maharao of Sirohi, his heirs and successors.

Sd. DOWAGER MAHARANI OF SIROHI,  
*President of the Regency Board, Sirohi.*

Sd. M. K. VELLODI,  
*Secretary to the Government of India,  
Ministry of States.*

*Dated New Delhi, the 8th November, 1948.*

APPENDIX II-  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
*MINISTRY OF LAW*

NOTIFICATION

*New Delhi, the 25th January, 1950.*

The following orders made by the Governor General are published for general information:—

S. O. 34

**THE STATES' MERGER (BOMBAY) ORDER, 1950**

WHEREAS FULL AND EXCLUSIVE Authority jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the Governance of the Indian State of Sirohi are exercisable by the Dominion Government;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide by order made under section 290A of the Government of India Act, 1935, for the administration of a part of the said State as if it formed part of the adjoining Governor's Province of Bombay;

AND WHEREAS the views of the Government of the said province have been ascertained both with respect to the proposal to make such an order and with respect to the provisions to be inserted therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by the said section 290A, Governor General is pleased to make the following order:—

1. (i) This Order may be cited as the States' Merger (Bombay) Order, 1950.

(ii) It shall come into force on the 25th day of January, 1950.

2. In this order, "merged area" means the area specified in the schedule to this order.

3. As from the commencement of this order the merged area which now forms part of the Indian State of Sirohi shall be administered in all respects as if it formed part of the province of Bombay; and accordingly, any reference to an Acceding State in the Government of India Act, 1935, or in any Act or Ordinance made on or after the appointed day shall be construed as not including a reference to the merged area, and any reference in any such Act or Ordinance as aforesaid to the province of Bombay shall be construed as including the merged area.

4. All laws in force in the merged area immediately before the appointed day shall, as from that day, cease to be in force in that area, and all laws in force in the District Banaskantha shall, as from that day, extend to, and be in force in, that area:

Provided that anything done or any action taken under the laws in force in the merged area, before the appointed day, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding law extended to, and be in force in, that area as from the appointed day.

*Explanation.*—In this article 'Law' includes any Act, Ordinance or Regulation and any Notification, Order, Schedule, Rule, Form or Bye-law issued, made or prescribed under any Act, Ordinance or Regulation.

5. The provisions of articles 5 to 10 of the States' Merger (Governor's Provinces) Order, 1949, shall apply in relation to the merged area as they apply in relation to a merged State, but subject to the modification that all reference therein to "the absorbing province" and "the appointed day" shall be deemed, respectively, to be references to "the province of Bombay" and "the date of commencement of this order".

6. For the purpose of article II of the States' Merger (Governor's Provinces) Order, 1949, the merged area shall be deemed to be included in Schedule II to that order along with the group of merged States headed by Idar, and the said article shall have effect accordingly.

## THE SCHEDULE

*(See article 2)*

The area comprised in the following villages in the Abu Road and Dilwara Tahsils of the Sirohi State, namely:—

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Abu Road.          | 2. Kesarganj.           |
| 3. Akra.              | 4. Manpur.              |
| 5. Sandtpur.          | 6. Ganka.               |
| 7. Khadat.            | 8. Umarni.              |
| 9. Kui.               | 10. Siawa.              |
| 11. Sangna.           | 12. Panduri.            |
| 13. Maval.            | 14. Medwa Mota.         |
| 15. Dona Kakar.       | 16. Danvav.             |
| 17. Mudarla.          | 18. Kiyara.             |
| 19. Kiyariya.         | 20. Khara.              |
| 21. Bhesa Sen.        | 22. Amba.               |
| 23. Mungthala.        | 24. Migarh.             |
| 25. Adliya.           | 26. Aval.               |
| 27. Chandela.         | 28. Girwar.             |
| 29. Begeri.           | 30. Redwa Chhota.       |
| 31. Bahadurpura.      | 32. Chanar.             |
| 33. Talvaran-ka-Naka. | 34. Ambaveri.           |
| 35. Mahikheda.        | 36. Fatehpura.          |
| 37. Chotila.          | 38. Rokhada.            |
| 39. Muliya Mahadeo.   | 40. Forest Chotila.     |
| 41. Chandravati.      | 42. Uplibor.            |
| 43. Upla Ghar.        | 44. Upla Khejra.        |
| 45. Kiyariya.         | 46. Tokiya.             |
| 47. Deri.             | 48. Jambudi.            |
| 49. Yaydara.          | 50. Taleti.             |
| 51. Dotra.            | 52. Nichala Ghar.       |
| 53. Nichala Bor.      | 54. Nichala Khejra.     |
| 55. Paval.            | 56. Buja.               |
| 57. Bori Buj.         | 58. Bosa.               |
| 59. Damriya.          | 60. Men.                |
| 61. Ronora.           | 62. Rada.               |
| 63. Surpagala.        | 64. Anthala.            |
| 65. Od.               | 66. Karoli.             |
| 67. Kiverli.          | 68. Tunka.              |
| 69. Derna.            | 70. Tartoli.            |
| 71. Vasada.           | 72. Morthala.           |
| 73. Dildar (Jagir).   | 74. Deldar (Devasthan). |
| 75. Arna.             | 76. Oria.               |

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 77. Goa Gom.  | 78. Javai.   |
| 79. Dhundhai.   | 80. Torna.   |
| 81. Dilwara.  | 82. Salgam.  |
| 83. Achalgarh.  | 84. Masgam.  |
| 85. Sanigam.  | 86. Hetamji. |
| 87. Block No.1.<br>(excluding all that<br>portion to the West of a<br>line drawn from western<br>boundries of Badarpura,<br>Fatehpura Malia Khara<br>to south-west point of<br>Block No. 3 and vil-<br>lage Masgam) |              |
| 88. Portion of Block No. 2 on south of the Abu Road.  |              |
| 89. Utraj village Survey Nos. 771 to 785.   |              |

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI,  
*Governor General.*

K.V.K. SUNDARAM,  
*Secretary.*

**APPENDIX III**  
**MINISTRY OF STATES**

**NOTIFICATION**

*New Delhi, the 24th January, 1950.*

No. 20-P.—WHEREAS the Central Government has full and exclusive extra-provincial jurisdiction for and in relation to the governance of those areas of the State of Sirohi as has not been merged in the Province of Bombay under the States' Merger (Bombay) Order, 1950;

NOW, THEREFORE, in the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Extra-Provincial Jurisdiction Act, 1947 (Act XLVII of 1947), and of all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Central Government is pleased to delegate to the Government of the United State of Rajasthan the extra-provincial jurisdiction aforesaid including the power conferred by section 4 of the said Act to make orders for the effective exercise of that jurisdiction.

Sd. S. NARAYANSWAMY,  
*Deputy Secretary.*

## CHAPTER XI.

## REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

## Land Revenue

*Historical Aspect.*—We know too little of the early economic history of the district to describe the land revenue system prevailing before the advent of Deoras. The Mauryas, Western Satraps, Guptas, Hunas, Chavadas of Bhinmal, Gujars, Pratihars, Chalukyas and Parmars, who preceded the Deoras, might have charged land revenue according to principles mentioned in *Dharmashastras*, the rates varying from one-sixth to one-twelfth of the produce.

Never in the long history of Rajputana, did her princes submit themselves to a common ruler, nor did they ever combine to adopt uniform policies to achieve a common goal. The Rajput States were based on clan system and clan feuds constitute a large part of the medieval Rajput history.

During the 14th and 15th centuries, frequent wars took place among various clans of Rajputs and different areas frequently changed hands among these clans. Thus the clans and not the kings came to power. As a result "every Rajput State was, generally speaking, one particular clan politically organised into one unit under the pressure of historical circumstances and economic conditions which were not remembered clearly in later days."<sup>1</sup> "This indentification of the clan with the State was the most characteristic feature of medieval Rajput polity."<sup>2</sup>

The Deoras, an offshoot of Chauhans, occupied the Sirohi State area in 1303 A. D. and the ruler divided the land amongst his kinsmen. These close relatives and associates were established as jagirdars who agreed to pay to the ruler 25 to 50 per cent of their income derived from all sources.

1. A. C. Banerjee "Lectures on Rajput History" p. 110.

2. *Ibid.*



Under Mughals, Sirohi become one of the seven *Sarkars* of the Ajmer province. It included Jalore, Banswara and Dungarpur.

Except in Bhakar, the rights in land, the rules and customs of the erstwhile State of Sirohi corresponded with those prevailing in the other States of Rajputana. The British took the view (mainly on the lines of Tod's chapter on 'Sketch of a Feudal system in Rajasthan') that "the chief of the State is the actual and absolute owner of the territory conquered by his ancestors. Those who accompanied the latter, received estates on certain conditions of fealty and military services, and became the Thakurs or nobles but the Rao still retained the ownership of all the land"<sup>1</sup>. This supposition, though unwarranted by history of these States, affected the relationship between the Rao and his Jagirdars, in favour of the former. However, as some modern writers have pointed out, the 'identification of the clan with the State was the most characteristic feature of medieval Rajput polity' and 'the State in fact, did not belong to the ruler-it belonged to the clan as a whole'<sup>2</sup>. Some of the Jagirs were established or expanded by collateral branches of the ruling princes. It was his status as *primus inter pares* rather than the power of the ruling princes that originally induced these Jagirdars to agree to the payment of a part of their income to him. Other Jagirs emerged as maintenance grants to the relations of the prince or grants in lieu of service. In Bhakar area, the Girasias, the original inhabitants continued to possess *Bhum* rights. Only a small part of the area conquered by Deoras was retained as *Khalsa*, which was subject to constant fluctuations, being increased by lapses and confiscations and diminished by grants to immediate members of the ruling family, to State servants or adherents for good service, to temples and other religious institutions."<sup>3</sup>

The three main tenures were: *Jagir*, *Sasan* and *Khalsa*. In 1901, the *Khalsa* lands covered 695 sq. miles, or more than one-third of the entire area of the State. Of 414 towns and

1. Erskine, 'The Western Rajputana States Residency and the Bikaner Agency Gazetteer', p. 276.

2. S. C. Dutt 'Rajput Polity' The Guardian, August 22, 1951, (quoted by A. C. Banerji).

3. Erskine, 'Gazetteer of Sirohi', p. 276.

villages, 159 were *Khalsa*, 203 *Jagir* and 52 *Sasan*. The number of villages had increased to 515 by 1942. After the settlement operations of 1942-45, the number was reduced to 476 of which 214 were *Khalsa*, 18 *Devasthan*, 16 *Muafi* and 228 *Jagir* and *Sasan*.

Unlike other States of Rajputana, the Jagirdars were entitled to a fixed *Husal* ranging from 12 to 4 annas in the *Jagir* villages. Their estates were hereditary and succession was on the basis of primogeniture. They could be divided into three classes: (i) the immediate relatives of the chief entitled to the prefix of *Maharaj* or *Rajasahiban*. They received some villages for their maintenance. Their rights continued till the lineal descendant existed in their branch, (ii) the *Thakurs* or descendants or those who had assisted in conquering the country and (iii) those who had obtained estates as reward for good service.

The *Sardars* of Nandia, Manadar, Mandar and Ajhari were among those in the first category. They were entitled to use the prefix of *Maharaj* or '*Rajasahiban*' and to sit in front of the ruling prince in the 'Darbars'. They were also called *Dohre Tazimi* or double *Tazimi*. The income of their estates varied from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 per annum. Succession was on the basis of primogeniture, though provision had to be made for younger sons. Consequent subdivisions of their Jagirs reduced Jagirdars to the status of poor and indebted cultivators. The *Sardars* of Padiv, Kalandri, Jawal and Motagaon came in the second category and were styled *sarayats* and they sat on the right and left of the chief. They, together with the *Sardar* of Nibaj, received the double *tazimi*, which was an honour given to these *Thakurs* to have the privilege of wearing gold ornaments both by their men and women folk. The *Thakurs* of Bhatana, Rohua, Mandwara and Debani etc. were in the third category and were entitled to single *tazimi*. They held lands subject to the pleasure of the Maharao.

All Jagirdars "paid tribute varying from three-eighth to one-half of their income, sometimes in cash and sometimes in kind, besides *Nazaram* or fee on succession according to their means", and had also to serve with their

quotas of horsemen and foot soldiers when called upon. Every *Jagir* estate was inalienable, i. e., it could not be sold or transferred; a portion could, however, be mortgaged with the sanction of the Darbar, but foreclosure would not be allowed. A list of principal Jagirdars will be found in Appendix I.

“*Sasan* lands are those granted to temples and members of religious castes such as Brahmans, Charans and Bhats; they are for all practical purposes grants in perpetuity and are held rent free, but like *Jagir* estates, they cannot be alienated.

“In the *Khalsa* or crown lands, the system is *ryotwari* and, though the Darbar is the sole proprietor of the soil, the *ryots* or cultivators, who are not very numerous and are too valuable to be parted with, undoubtedly possess a sort of permanent occupancy right which is well understood and is always respected so long as they pay the revenue demand regularly. The State makes the best terms it can with the cultivator and on the latter's death, his land is divided among his sons who did not have to pay *nazarana*. In the Bhakar, the Girasias as already observed, retain their *bhum* rights, that is, they hold free of rent or at reduced rates on condition of some particular service, such as watch and ward of their villages, while the Loks of Abu have certain hereditary privileges and hold their lands on very easy terms.”<sup>1</sup>

### Mode of Assessment and Collection

Erskine describes the system as under:

“The land revenue is mostly collected in kind, and the Darbar's share varies from one-fifth to one-third of the produce according to the caste of the cultivator; the purely agricultural classes pay on the higher scale, while Rajputs, Bhils, Minas and Kolis (who belong to the ‘*Dewali-band*’ or protectors of the village), as well as Brahmans, Mahajans and some others are favoured. The Darbar's share used to be realised by an actual division of the produce,

1. “Gazetteer of the Sirohi State and some Statistical Tables” by Erskine, p. 277.

called *batai*, but, as the grain was damaged by lying for some time on the threshing floor and the State consequently received a diminished quantity, this system was abolished and replaced by one known as *Kankut*, under which the share is taken by a division based on a conjectural estimate of the standing crops. In parts, the revenue is paid in cash at rates ranging from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 5/- per plough, or per pair of bullocks working in the wells. Since 1903-04, a third system, known as *bighoti* or a cash rate per *bigha* cultivated, has been in force, it was at first introduced in only three sub-divisions, but is being rapidly extended to other parts and is said to find favour. The rates per *bigha* vary from eight annas to Rs. 5/-; the similar figures per acre work out at Rs. 1/4/- and Rs. 12/8/-. Outside the *Khalsa* villages, collections in kind are still most prevalent.”<sup>1</sup>

The Tahsildars collected the Darbar's share with the help of their Naibs, Patels, Circle Inspectors, Patwaris or Talatis, Bholamanias and Bhambis. The quality of grain received was noted in a register called *Mokta-Ku-Chopra*. There were State godowns at various convenient places where grain was stored and later auctioned.

The first major change in the system came in 1903-04 with arbitrary fixation of cash rents in *khalsa* areas for a period of 20 years. These rents were to be regarded as a contract between the tenant and the State, though resignations were not to be allowed. The wells were auctioned and given to the highest bidders, irrespective of past usage. A redeeming feature of the scheme was appointment of the *Talatis* and Circle Inspectors, qualified at the '*Talatiship*' examination of the Baroda State. They were charged with the duty of preparing records of fields and wells, repairing existing wells and sinking new ones and teaching the villagers best methods of cultivation. They tried to increase the area under cultivation and to correlate the share of the State with the class of land. The State's share was henceforth appraised on the basis of standing crops and the system of realization of *Halbandi* was also improved. The presence of '*Talatis*' in the villages also enabled the State to know of the grievances of the public and to take remedial steps.

1. "A Gazetteer of the, Sirohi State and some statistical tables" by Erskine, p. 277.

*Muafis* to the *Pewals* were resumed in 1907-08 and their tenure was changed to that of ordinary rent paying cultivators. This institution had become obsolete as the services for which these *Muafis* were originally granted (e. g. carrying letters and messages during various ceremonies and attendance on chiefs and the relations while on tour etc.) had since fallen into disuse.

#### Settlement Operation (1911-15)

Survey operations were started for the first time in January 1911, under the supervision of Mr. Michael Kean.<sup>1</sup> The survey covered 428 villages of the State: 161 in 1910-11, 220 in 1911-12 and 47 in 1912-13. 24 villages in Bhakar area were left out due to the difficult nature of the terrain and the opposition of Girasias. The cadestral survey was carried out by the plain table and the inter-state boundries were marked with the help of the theodolite. Chains of 66 ft. (i. e. half in length of Gunthor's chain of 132 ft.) were used and sheets were plotted at the scale 1 inch = 5 chains. Maps were also prepared, the scale being 16 inches to a mile.

The local *Talatis* (Patwaris) prepared attestation *Misals* under the guidance of experienced Amins borrowed from other States. The area of every plot was computed by *Talatis* while the qualified *Munsarims* traced out maps from the original sheets in ink to show boundries, plots and villages. The villages were grouped in 'patwar circles' under a *munsarim* who was responsible for attestation.

Cultivation was widely fluctuating and as such the area of any holding could never be regarded as fixed. This made the task of assessment difficult. The difficulties were even greater in *Jagir* area where the question of settling and defining vague, complicated and doubtful rights of the Jagirdars, cropped up.

Efforts were made to work out rent rates on the basis of the collection for the preceding four years. However, the Settlement Officer did not regard the State ripe for universal introduction of cash rents and the cultivators also showed

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1. An I. C. S. officer loaned from U. P. who worked as Settlement Officer for Tonk & Sirohi from 1911-15 and was, after some time appointed as Governor of Assam. He was latter beknighted.

preference for grain rents which rose and fell with good or bad crops. Hence cash rents were introduced only in the willing villages.

The recommendations of the Settlement Officer were never fully implemented due to the hostile attitude of jagirdars. The only lasting result of these operations was the adaptation of modern methods of accounting in place of the haphazard entries in the Bhalamania's *bahi*. The tahsils were grouped into two circles, Abu Road and Sirohi. The Parganas of Santpur, Rohera, Ramera, Mandar and Abu, with a total of 257 villages, were placed in the Abu Road circle and those of Pindwara, Posaliya, Sirohi, Barlut, Kalandri and Bhakar with 208 villages in Sirohi circle. A sizable strength of patwaris was built up, which facilitated collection of revenue and proper maintenance of accounts.

When Mr. Kean left the State, the records of rights of the tenants had been completed and soil classification of tahsil Abu Road had reached an advanced stage. The value of those records was acknowledged by Col. Macpherson in 1920-23. After 1917 some money continued to be spent every year in the name of settlement, but, really speaking, it was all revenue work. During 1936, the State carried out survey and settlement operations in 153 villages of tahsils Pindwara, Rohera and Abu Road and fresh maps were prepared, but the quality of the work was very poor.

During this period, the State issued *Panris* or Demand Slips and *Parvanas* for *barani* and irrigated lands according to the settlement rates. At many places, wells were given on *Ijara* but rates were kept so high that the tenants failed to pay their *Bighoti* to the Government. Thus the settlement data compiled during these operations was used by the State primarily to their own advantage. This resulted in creating a lasting aversion in the minds of the people towards settlement operations giving rise to many difficulties during the course of next settlement.

#### Settlement of Khalsa Lands (1942-45)

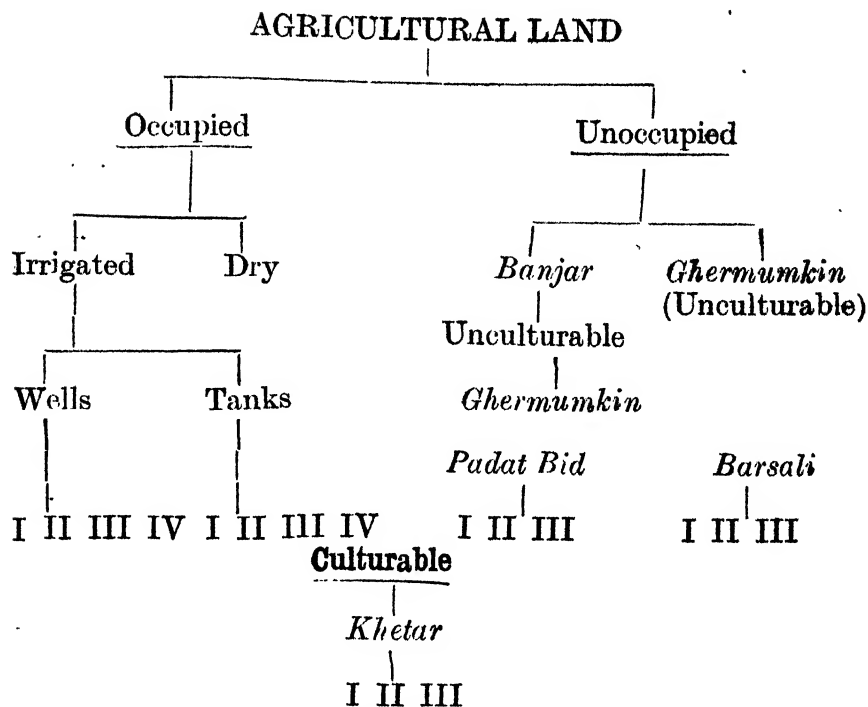
Grounds for this settlement were prepared in 1940, when the unwilling *Bighoti* holders were invited to resign. Just

before the operations started, the Darbar issued an order assuring the continuity of the rights and privileges of the tenants. A phased programme for settlement was chalked out and only the *Kha'sa* villages were taken up in the first instance. Initially, the operations were started in tahsils Pindwara, Rohera and Abu Road where the work was completed in 1942, under the supervision of an officer loaned by the Mewar Government. Operations in Reodar and Sirohi were completed in 1942-43, in Sheoganj in Barlut in 1943-44 and in Delwara in 1944-45. Settlement operations were also carried out by the same staff in the area of Mt. Abu leased out to the British Government. After some unsuccessful experiments with the theodolite in Bhakar area, survey in all the tahsils was carried out with plain table.

### Records of Rights

In respect of wells and lands irrigated by wells, those who sunk and constructed the well at their own cost or had very old possession, were named as *Khatedars*, and those who had old possession or had rendered personal help towards the sinking of the wells, were entered as *Kabjedars*. Lastly, those whose possession was recent and who had not spent anything towards the sinking and construction of the wells, were shown as *Shikmis*. Further, a register named *Halatdeh* was also maintained in which history and rights in each well were also recorded. Thus, due care was taken to safeguard the interests of the cultivators as well as the State. The State constructed wells in settled areas and gave them out on *Pattedari* right to cultivators on payment of compensation at a graded scale. The compensation charged from those who were entered as *Khatedars* in the Settlement of 1942-45 was 6 months' revenue, while tenants entered as *Kabjedars* and *Shikmis* were charged one and two year's revenue respectively. Simultaneously with the completion of settlement in *Khalsa* and *Devasthan* villages, a suitable land record staff of Patwaris and Girdawars was appointed. The settlement operations settled many problems and the cultivators started taking interest in their holdings. Digging of new wells was increased and more land was brought under cultivation which in turn, increased the income of the State considerably.

The land was classified as under:—



The settlement period was fixed for twenty years and the revision would have been due in the year 1962. In the *Devasthan* villages, which were under the direct management of the State, cash rents were introduced in *Batai* areas. It meant that joint *Khalsa* and *Jagir* villages were also surveyed and assessed, but no announcement of rent was made due to the opposition from the Jagirdars. Thereafter, attempts were made to introduce settled rents in almost all the *Jagir* villages. Provision for remissions and suspensions was also made.

#### Assessment Circle

In *Khalsa* villages the assessment on dry land was done on the principle of '*bad-aj jama*.' The area was divided into various circles. Though circles differed from *tahsil* to *tahsil*, the two-fold division into *Lokat* and *Kantla* was more common. The land under *Lokat* circle was superior in quality and had irrigation facilities. It was cultivated by the agriculturist class. The *Kantla* circle possessed inferior land cultivated by non-agricultural classes e.g., *Bhils*, *Girasias*, *Rajputs*, *Muslims* and *Minas*.



**Panris**

After the assessment was over, *Panris* were distributed to the cultivators under the seal of Department as title deed. The State-demand was calculated on the basis of land revenue rates and cesses. In the hilly tracts of Bhils, *Halbandi* was charged. Each plough was counted as a unit, and rates were charged according to the local conditions. The *Halbandi* rates varied from Rs. 2/8/- to Rs. 6/- per plough. *Versali* or *Farsali* rates were separately charged. For *rabi* crops, extra rates were charged according to group B. Due to inferior soil, rotation of cultivation was mostly resorted to, and tenants did not stick to one field. Hence, to attract the cultivators, permanent and temporary rates for each class of land were fixed up. The tahsil-wise incidence of revenue for irrigated and unirrigated land (per acre) was as follows:—

(In Rs. as. p.)

Tahsil	Land	
	Irrigated	Unirrigated
Pindwara .. .. .	7/4/-	1/4/7
Sheoganj .. .. .	7/10/4	-/15/9
Sirohi .. .. .	7/7/-	1/1/7
Reodar .. .. .	7/6/9	-/9 11

**Cess**

A cess called "Local Cess" was imposed at the rate of half anna per rupee; 50 per cent of the proceeds were to be kept by the Darbar and the rest were to be deposited in *Malba* or village fund. This amount could be spent by villagers at their discretion for the development of the village. But in practice, this amount was used for the reception and entertainment of the *Thakurs*, Jagirdars or the members of the Royal family, whenever they visited the villages. In bigger villages, the cess could be increased by one anna per rupee. The *Lambardar* was responsible for maintaining the accounts.

**Hath Kharch**

The *Hath Kharch* estate (Bhawri tahsil) consisted of 16 villages, which area is now included in Pindwara tahsil.

Except one *Batai Jagir* of Charana, all the villages had *Ryotwari* tenure. Six of these villages belonged to *Lokat circle* and the rest to *Kantla*. The wells were leased out to middle men on competitive cash rates, called "*Bighoti*", ranging from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7/- per *Piwat* bigha. The cultivators were never a party to it. The rent charged by the State was of the total produce, while the rent charged from Bhils and Ghurias ranged from  $\frac{1}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the total produce. All land under *Hath kharch* tahsil was known as *khudkast* land. In 10 villages, *Jors* (grass preserves) were found, covering a total area of 1,700 *bighas*. The collection of land revenue was done by the *Hath kharch* officer with the help of the *patels*. The *khatedars* and *kabjedars* continued to enjoy the un-disturbed rights as in *Khalsa* villages. They had full rights to surrender their holdings. The Commission paid to *patels* was at the rate of 4 per cent on the first 1,000 rupees, 2 per cent up to Rs. 3,000 and rupee one for every additional thousand rupees.

### Surveys

The first topographical survey of the former Sirohi State was commenced by the Government of India in the year 1880-81. It was finished during the year 1934-35. The State did not take active interest in it. Besides, local survey was conducted, as referred to above, during the period 1911-14. The record of rights was prepared and soil was classified to introduce settled rates. But, due to un-cooperative attitude of the public and Jagirdar, no further progress was made towards the assessment of the land, nor, full records of rights of the tenants could be prepared. These operations were, however, instrumental in settling boundry disputes and exact demarcation of *Jagir*, *Khalsa* and *Muafi* villages. After 1917 the State Budget showed some amounts spent on settlement every year though really speaking, these sums were spent on Revenue work i.e., maintenance of the records. 153 villages in tahsils Pindwara, Rohera and Abu Road were resurveyed in 1936 to bring the maps up-to-date.

During this period, the State issued *Panris* or demand slips according to the Settlement rights and auctioned wells at very high rates. However, a large number of tenants failed to pay their *Bighoti* (cash rents) to the Government. Later on, a programme was chalked out to introduce settle-

ment operations first in the *Khalsa* and *Devasthan* villages and then in the *Batai* villages where the State had a direct share in the land revenue.

The State had to face great difficulties in carrying out settlement operations. The cultivators did not show their fields to the field staff. On the contrary, they were being molested by mischief-mongers. Military aid was called and the public was persuaded to behave better. In the year 1947, efforts were made to introduce the *Bighoti* system, regulating the payment of a fixed rate of land assessment per *bigha* instead of *Batai* in certain villages. Jagirdars did not like the introduction of this system. Even after the introduction of the agency of *Talatis*, the agency of *Bhalmania* was also allowed to continue. *Talatis* or *Patwaris* were imported from Gujarat and were employed to work out the system when well-irrigated land was given out on lease for cash payment.

To safeguard the best interests of the agriculturists and prevent alienation of their holdings to non-agriculturists, an order was issued that no agricultural or pastoral land shall be given out to *Sahukar* or any non-agriculturist. Agriculturists were also debarred from the right to alienate their holdings whether by sale, mortgage or otherwise to a non-agriculturist, except with the express permission of the revenue member. It was further ordered that even when the agriculturist's holdings came to be auctioned in execution of a court decree, bids from non-agriculturists would not be accepted except in cases where the revenue member may, for any special reason, considered it necessary to waive this condition. This measure was introduced to give the agriculturists all the benefits of their rights and permanency in the holdings.

### PRESENT SETTLEMENT (Non-Khalsa) 1954-58

#### Assessment circles

At the time of the formation of Rajasthan, there had been two settlements in the former Sirohi State. In the areas under Jagirdars and other landlords, settlement in the true sense of the term could not take place due to the hostile, non-co-operative and suspicious attitude of the vested interests towards these operations. In the State of Sirohi,

non-*khalsa* lands constituted a major portion of the entire area, and in view of the decision to abolish landlordism, a settlement in the tahsils comprising the district was undertaken.

The tahsilwise operations were started in the year 1954. In the tahsil of Sheoganj, the circles were termed as *Kharal* and *Khuni* while in Sirohi tahsil as *Johra* and *Magra* (I & II). Further, Abu Road tahsil was divided in plain and *sub-montane* circles and Pindwara tahsil in *Lokat* and *Kantla* or *Kantali* circles. In Reodar tahsil, the assessment circles were the same as in Pindwara tahsil. The land of the *Lokat* or *Lokaj* circle was cultivated by the agriculturist classes like Kumhar, Kalbi, Mali and Ghanchi.

### Types of Tenures

Before the year 1940, total number of villages in the State of Sirohi was 510, of which 476 were populated and the rest deserted or *becharagh* (where there is no light) villages. Of the populated villages, 214 were *Khalsa* and 262 non-*khalsa* villages. As the *Khalsa* villages had already been settled during the period 1942-45, it was decided to leave them out of the operations. The main tenures of the State were :—

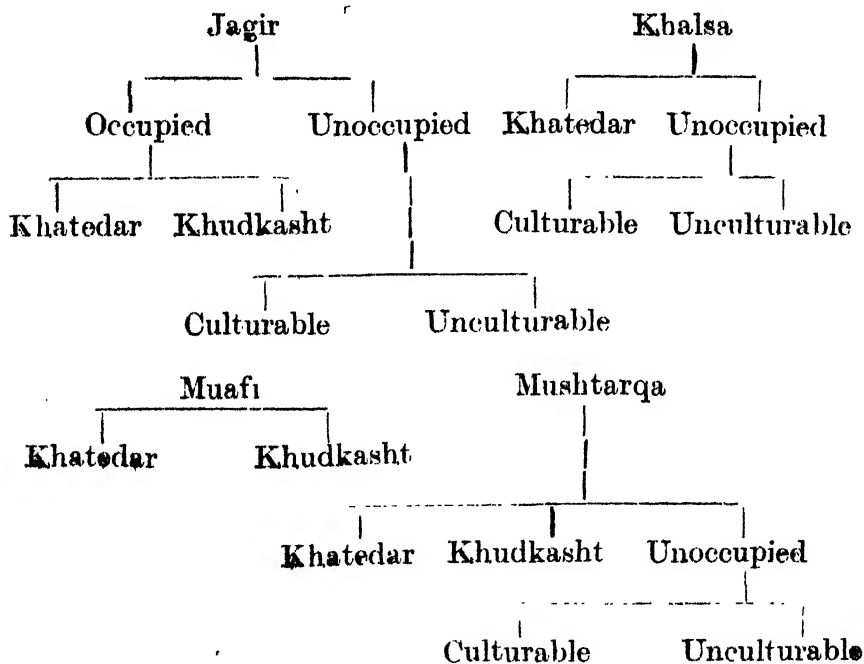
(i) **Partition Jagir**:—Where the share of Jagirdars and the State was fixed, and the Jagirdars were deemed as sole proprietors.

(ii) **Cash Jagir**:—Under this system the State's share was fixed in cash and Jagirdars were to pay it in two instalments; and

(iii) **Batai or Latai**:—Under this tenure, the entire management rested with the State which affected *Batai* through its own agency. The rest of the tenures were *Muafi*, where the State did not take any share of the produce. The same was the case with *Devasthan* Land which was dedicated to the holy shrines. Before 1951, the types of cultivators were *Pattedar*, *Khatedar*, *Kabjedar*, *Shikmi*, and *Muafidar*, but the whole area covered under *Khalsa* villages measured 1,04,928 acres. Now, there are only two types of tenures namely; *Khatedars* and *Gair Khatedars* according to Rajasthan Tenancy Act. The area covered by them is 5,25,230 acres.

**Rental System and Rent Rates**

In *Batai* areas there was an actual division of produce while *cheera* or cash rent was fixed per *bigha* in *Kharif*, and per *Bhawli* in *Rabi* crops. In *Kanila* circles, land revenue was a fixed grain-rent on the *Chahi* lands. The area of this district was (according to the non-*Khalsa* settlement report), classified as below :—



As stated earlier, no land revenue was charged on the *Devasthan* and *gochar* lands. From *Barsa'i* area  $\frac{1}{8}$ th share of the produce was taken in cash according to the prevailing prices which was locally called *Kunta*. In the same manner,  $\frac{1}{8}$ th share was also taken from *Chahi* holdings in *Rabi* crops.

To make the payment convenient to the cultivators, the land revenue, at present, is collected in two parts of shares i.e.  $\frac{1}{3}$  for *Kharif* crop and  $\frac{2}{3}$  for *Rabi*. The rents are fixed in cash for the duration of the settlement period.

After settlement of the non-*Khalsa* villages of these four *tahsils*, the rates as given in the following table, were fixed for each type of land :—

Soil Class	Sheoganj		Sirohi		Pindwara		Reodar			
	Kharal	Khuni	Khuni	Johra	Magra	Magra	Circle I	Circle II	Lokayat	Kantali
Chahi I A	..	4/-	4/-	4/-	3 8/-	..	..	..	..	..
Chahi A	..	3/-	2/10/-	3, 8/-	3 -/-	2/10/-	4/-	3/-	3 8/-	2/10/-
Chahi I	..	2/10/-	2/4/-	2, 14/-	2 8/-	2 4/-	3/4/-	2 8/-	3/-	2/4/-
Chahi II	..	2/4/-	1/12/-	2 4/-	1 12/-	1/12/-	2 8/-	2/-	2 4/-	1/12/-
Chahi III	..	1/4/-	1/-	..	..	..	1/12/-	1 8/-	..	..
Chahi IV	..	-8/-	-8/-	-12/-	-10/-	-8/-	-10/-	-4/-	-9/-	-6/-
Baisali Ch. I	..	-6/-	-6/-	-9/-	-8 -	..	..	..	..	..
Baisali Ch. II	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baisali I A	..	-8/-	-10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baisali A	..	-6/-	-8/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baisali I	..	-4/-	-5/-	-9/-	-8 -	-6 -	-6 -	-6/-	-9/-	-6/-
Baisali II	..	-2/-	-2 6	-6 -	-5 -	-4 -	-4 -	-4/-	-6/-	-4/-
Baisali III	..	..	..	-3 -	-2 6	-2 -	..	-2/-	..	..
Baisali Usan	..	-6/-	-8/-	-6/-	5/-	-4 -	-4 -	-3/-	-9/-	-9/-
for I	..	-2/-	-2 6	-13/-	-2 6	-2 -	-3 -	-2/-	..	..
for II	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parat A	..	-2/-	-2/-	-2/-	-2/-	-2/-	-2/-	-1/-	..	..
Parat I	..	-2/-	-1/-	-1/-	-1/-	-1/-	-1/-	-1/-	..	..
Parat II	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sewaj I A	..	1/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sewaj I	..	1/2/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sewaj II	..	-9/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sewaj III	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sewaj Parat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peta	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(In rupees &amp; annas per bigha)

**System of Collection of Land Revenue**

In the *Khalsa* areas of the State, land revenue was collected at tahsil headquarters on the basis of *bharna* or demand slip issued by the Patwari while in the *Jagir* villages, rents were collected in kind by the Jagirdars. This work is now done by Lambardars (Patels) and where this office does not exist, by the Patwaris. Before 1950, Tahsildars, Girdawar, Patwari, Seldar, Patel and Bhambhi constituted the machinery for realising the land revenue. The machinery remains the same except that from 1960 onwards, the agency of Bhambhi has been discarded.

Actual collection of land revenue is thus done by Patels in a large part of the district. He is accompanied by Patwari who consults his demand register (*dhal bandi*) and issues receipts. He is entitled to 5 per cent of receipts for performing this function. There is now a proposal to entrust the collection work to Panchayats.

The Patwari maintains the village records of his *halika* and these are examined by Revenue Inspectors. Each Inspector has charge of a circle comprising a number of *Patwar halkas*. Above circle inspectors, are the tahsildars and above them, the Sub-Divisional Officers. At tahsil headquarters there is an Office Kanungo, who looks after the records. The consolidated revenue records of the district are maintained at headquarters by an official called the Sadar Kanungo. The Collector himself is, however, ultimately responsible for their maintenance.

**Revenue Units**

The following statement shows the number of *Girdawar* (Inspection) circles and Patwar *halkas* in the district:—

<i>Tahsil</i>	<i>Girdawar Circles</i>	<i>Patwar Halkas</i>
Sirohi	1. Sirohi	9
	2. Kalandri	13
	1. Sheoganj	17
Reodar	1. Reodar	16
	2. Mandar	12

<i>Tahsil</i>	<i>Girdawar Circle</i>	<i>Patwar Halkas</i>
Pindwara	1. Pindwara	10
	2. Bhawa	6
Abu Road	1. Abu Road	6
	2. Kivarli	9

This will show that in the district there are five tahsils, nine *Girdawar* circles and 98 *Patwar halkas*. The names of the *Patwar halkas* appear in Appendix No. 2.

Till the year 1942, the system of cash assessment had not been adopted in the whole State. Settlement operations were conducted in 1911-14 by Sir Michael Kean and efforts were made to bring about the system of cash assessment or *bighoti*, but the primitive tribes like Bhils and Girasias and many Jagirdars, were averse to it. As a result, the efforts had to be abandoned. Later, in 1923, due to the efforts of a committee appointed by the Darbar under the presidentship of Colonel A.D. Machperson, a cash settlement was made with 83 Jagirdars in the State. Some Jagirdars still preferred to remain on *Batai* system.

Then, in order to create a vested interest in soil among cultivators by fixing up a reasonable cash rental and granting them hereditary rights over their holdings, a land revenue settlement was launched in the State on 1st November, 1942. This was started as a measure of reform with the ultimate object of creating a contented peasantry with assured rights.

In the beginning, the operations were looked upon with suspicion, but later, when the advantage of cash system became apparent, they were welcomed. In the first instance, *khalsa* villages, were taken up. Reasonable rates were fixed (see Appendix 3), and cultivators were assured that tenants were to be granted permanent tenancy rights over their holdings and they and their legal heirs and successors were not to be ousted from them so long as they remained loyal and paid the fixed rental. Now it was also made incumbent on all *Batai Jagirs* to take to cash payment system.



The net resulting effect of these settlement operations has been described thus in the Sirohi State Administration Report of 1945-46 (p. 31), "The land has been assessed in accordance with its soil and productivity and fair rents in cash have been fixed. The rental being reasonable, moderate and equitable, based on pre-war twenty years' average of the income of the State's share, have satisfied the cultivators and more and more culturable fallow land has been brought under cultivation." And that "the settlement has brought contentment among the cultivating class and has settled all the agrarian problems." (p. 34)

### Abolition of Jagirs

With the implementation of the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1952, all intermediaries have been removed and direct relationship has been established between the State and the actual tiller of the soil. At the time of the passing of the Act, there were in the district only 132 *Khalsa* villages out of a total of 372 villages excluding the area under Abu Taluqa which formed part of Bombay State till 1956.

The details were as follows : --

#### Tahsils

Type of villages	Sheo- ganj	Sirohi	Abu Road	Pind- wara	Reodar
<i>Khalsa</i>	26	18	73	68	20
Non- <i>Khalsa</i>	43	66	13	31	100

The following statement shows the number of *Jagirs* resumed under the Act and the compensation paid there under :—

Year	Total number of resu- med jagirs	Compensation paid in Rs.			
		Interim compensa- tion	Bond	Cash	Total
					6
	2	5,476.00			5,476.00
		3,497.00			3,497.00

1	2	3	5	6
1956-57	..	39,781.00	..	39,781.00
1957-58	120	49,702.00	..	49,702.00
1958-59	8,364	1,14,509.44	..	1,14,509.44
1959-60	6	1,28,307.44	..	1,28,397.44
1960-61	..	98,500.69	4,441.07	56,626.26
TOTAL	..	8,492	4,39,863.57	28,441.07
			56,626.26	5,24,930.90

### Agricultural wages

Before the abolition of *begar* in 1940-41, landlords frequently used unpaid labour for miscellaneous jobs in their homes and fields. Such labourers were usually tenants of the landlords and the extent of payment made to them depended on the sweet will of the Jagirdars. Elsewhere, during the busy harvesting seasons, a large number of labourers were employed by the cultivators. Wages were rarely paid in cash. The labourer was supplied with grains to feed himself and his family. Sometimes he was also given old clothes and a rough shelter. Extra rations were supplied at the time of the harvest if more than one member of the family was employed. In the slack seasons, the labourers drifted to some other employments. The cash rates in the first decade of the century, were about 3 to 4 annas a day as compared to the present rate of rupee one to Rs. 1/8/- per day.

No specific study has been made about the agricultural labour in the district. The agricultural labour class consists mainly of persons from lower castes and tribes and peasants who have very little land or other meagre sources of income which fail to provide full sustenance. The largest source of livelihood of labour force in rural areas is employment in agriculture. But wage employment in agriculture is, by its very nature, seasonal and intermittent. According to the Report on the Second Enquiry, Agricultural labour in India (1956-57), in the Rajasthan State, the adult male agricultural labour was employed on wages for 215 days in the year, 180 days in agricultural operations and only 35 days in non-agricultural occupations. The same figures for women labourers were 120, 115 and 12 days respectively. Women labourers occupy

an important place in the rural working class family as they seek employment due to sheer economic necessity.

The above cited report shows a decline in the yearly income of the agricultural labour households in the State as compared to previous 4 years *e. g.*, 1950-51. In 1956-57, the percentage of the agricultural labour households in debt, for the State, was 62.

### OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

#### Past Sources

We learn from Tod's account that "The fiscal revenues of Sirohi may, with the continuance of tranquillity, reach three or even four lakhs of rupees annually, and the fiefs of the vassals half as much more. In 1854 the financial position of the State was very difficult. This being the reason, the Government of India exercised a general superintendence over the affairs of the State for eleven years. On the 1st September, 1865 after all debts had been liquidated, the administration was handed over to the late Rao with a balance of Rs. 42,365/- in the treasury. The *Khalsa* income in 1866-67 was reported to be about Rs. 1.4 lakhs towards which land revenue contributed Rs. 69,700/-, transit duties Rs. 29,300/-, and a special tax on account of the marriage of the Chief's sister to the Maharaja of Jodhpur, Rs. 23,600/-. The expenditure exceeded the income by Rs. 15,000/- the main items being troops and contingent expenses, Rs. 30,000/-, stables, camels, elephants and bullocks and marriage expenses Rs. 18,400/-, Rs. 26,000/- respectively and tribute to Government of India Rs. 7,500/-."

The administrative reforms initiated during the reign of Maharao Umaid Singh (1863-75 A. D.) resulted in the increased financial liability of the State and by the end of 1875, the State was indebted to the tune of nearly a lakh of rupees. As mentioned in the chapter on general administration, the revenue system was reorganised during the reign of Maharao Kesari Singh (1875-1925 A. D.). The dues were paid up in 1879-80 A. D., and thereafter, the revenue rose steadily till it reached Rs. 2.10 lakhs in 1884-85, three lakhs in 1893-94, Rs. 3.82 lakhs in 1895-96 and finally, 4.21 lakhs in 1896-97. However, in consequence of the

famine in 1899-1900 and the several indifferent seasons, the population declined and the revenue also fell. For years the normal yearly income amounted to only Rs. 3½ lakhs. By 1904, when the *Bhilai* currency was given up for British currency, the State had again been indebted to the tune of five lakhs of rupees. The situation did not improve during the reign of his successor Maharao Sarupram Singh and the Administration Report for 1938 shows that the total income of the State was Rs. 10,60,824 and expenditure Rs. 11,17,081. The State was indebted to the tune of Rs. 4,54,951 and a further loan of Rs. two lakhs was taken from Junagadh. Some efforts were made to increase the revenue by enhancing the rates of old taxes, *e. g.*, house-tax, *Sagpan* (a tax levied on money-lenders), *Godbab* (death duty) and *Kapoorbab* (a duty on successions and adoption). Some new taxes were also introduced.

The main sources of revenue during the said period were: Customs duties more than a lakh, land revenue including proceeds of house taxes (*ghar-ginati*) and grazing fees Rs. 80,000, fines and succession taxes etc. Rs. 28,000 to 30,000; excise Rs. 20,000, miscellaneous contracts connected with bones, hides etc. Rs. 18,000; payments made by government under the salt agreement of 1879, Rs. 10,800; forests Rs. 8,000 to 10,000 (net) ; and court fees and stamps etc. Rs. 7,000. The main items of expenditure were army and police Rs. 56,000; household expenditure of His Highness and family Rs. 35,000; customs department Rs. 26,000; judicial and revenue staff Rs. 23,000; stables including camels, etc. Rs. 20,000; public works department Rs. 7,000 and tribute to government Rs. 6,900 in round numbers. The State during 1944-45 earned through land revenue an amount of Rs. 5,54,656 (including old arrears), from excise, Rs. 4,59,041 forests and *jods* Rs. 2,56,878, customs Rs. 4,04,228, stamps Rs. 36,298, fines and forfeitures Rs. 16,572, salt compensation Rs. 4,500 while total income from all sources amounted to Rs. 21,96,496. As regards expenditure figures of the State for the same year, an amount of Rs. 1,41,780 was spent on His Highness and members of the ruling family, Rs. 1,33,936 on administration, Rs. 1,39,067 on army and police, Rs. 3,15,145 on public works, Rs. 47,081 on medical department and Rs. 48,395 on education. Certain villages were set apart for the Maharao's personal expenditure and the revenues derived from there, were paid into his private treasury.

## FRESH SOURCES

Besides land revenue, the following are the main sources of revenue in the district.

## Excise and Taxation

Excise duties on liquor, opium and hemp were levied during the State time also and in 1906-1907 a total income of Rs. 22,602-14-3 was shown under this head. There were at that time, 67 shops of country liquor and 200 shops of opium and four shops of *Ganja*.

Prior to 1950 this department was under the Superintendent of Customs and Excise. The jurisdiction of the department was limited to Sirohi district only, but in 1956, the districts of Sirohi and Jalore were placed under the control of an Assistant Commissioner of Excise and Taxation with headquarters at Sirohi. The Assistant Commissioner is responsible for assessment and realization of sales tax, agricultural income tax, entertainment tax and tax on retail sales of motor spirit.

Excise duty and sales taxes bring considerable revenue. The Assistant Commissioner has the following staff to assist him :—

Two Asstt. Sales-tax officers.

Eleven Inspectors.

Three U. D. Cs.

Sixteen L. D. Cs.

Five *Moharirs*.

Thirty-three class IV servants (12 camel sawars and 21 others).

The district is under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner, Excise and Taxation (administration) while the appellate authority is the Deputy Commissioner, Excise and Taxation (Appeals), both headquartered at Jodhpur.

Before April, 1960 agricultural income tax was imposed over an income of Rs. 6,000. Super-tax was payable on income in excess of Rs. 30,000. In addition to this, it was laid down that no agricultural income tax was payable by persons owning not more than 60 acres of

irrigated land or 180 acres of unirrigated land. But now, since 1st April, 1960 this tax has been abolished. The recovery of this tax can be made as arrears of land revenue.

The following statement shows the revenue obtained through the Department of Excise and Taxation in 1955-56 and 1960-61:—

Item	1955-56	1960-61
Excise .. .. .	6,37,858	7,82,297
Sales Tax .. .. .	4,00,366	8,15,781
Other taxes and duties ..	4,405	386
Entertainment tax .. ..	—	48,073
R. P. G. T. .. .. .	—	30,767
Agricultural income-tax ..	—	4,709

#### Registration Department

Registration of documents was done by the court of the District and Session Judge during the State times. Later on, the Collectors were entrusted with the duties of District Registrars, but now this function has passed on to the Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at Mount Abu and Sirohi. The Collectors are, however, empowered to hear appeals against the orders of the Sub-Registrars within their jurisdiction. The Tahsildars function as *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars in their respective tahsils.

The following statement shows the number of documents registered, their total value and fees collected in the district in 1941-42 and 1960-61 :—

Year	Documents registered (Number)	Value in Rs.	Registration fees (Rs.)
1941-42	378	4,86,012	1,149
1960-61	1014	15,94,355	17,094

The following statement shows the number of documents registered and fees collected in the various registering offices in the district in 1960-61 :—

Office	No. of documents registered.	Total Registration Fees (Rs.)
District Registrar, Sirohi ..	115	2,028.71
Sub-Registrar, Sirohi ..	267	3,922.00
Sub-Registrar, Pindwara ..	173	2,617.62
Sub-Registrar Sheoganj ..	215	3,705.00
Sub-Registrar, Abu Road ..	176	2,646.00
Sub-Registrar, Reodar ..	68	2,175.00
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>17,094.33</b>

#### Stamps

During the State times, the revenue from stamps varied from Rs. 7,000/- to Rs. 8,000/-. The major part was received in cash as court fees and the rest by sale of Stamp paper for petitions (introduced in 1869 and worth -/4/-) and Stamp paper for deeds (varying in value from Re. 1/- to Rs. 10/- and first introduced in October, 1896). This department was under the control of the district officers of the State. In the year 1896, the Sirohi Stamps Act modelled on the lines of Indian Stamps Act, was adopted.

Under the present Stamps Act, the District Treasury Officers function as custodian of stamps for the purpose of storage, sale and distribution to the sub-treasuries and stamp-vendors. The supply of stamps (judicial and non-judicial) is arranged through the Nasik Press by the Superintendent of Stamps for distribution to the divisional treasuries and thereafter, to the district treasuries.

At the district treasuries as well as the sub-treasuries, there are stamp-vendors appointed by the Collector. There are two at Sirohi, one at Abu Road and one stamp-vendor at Sheoganj. There are none in Pindwara and Reodar tahsils.

On sale of Judicial stamps, the stamp-vendors get a commission of Rs. 1.56 per cent. For non-judicial stamps, the commission is as follows:—

District headquarters	..	Rs. 3/2/-	per cent
Sub-Divisional headquarters.	..	Rs. 4/11/-	per cent
Tahsil headquarters and other places.	..	Rs. 6/4/-	per cent

The figures of the sale of these stamps in the district in 1960-61 are as follows:—

A. Non-Judicial stamps	..	Rs. 50,244.00
B. Judicial Stamps		
(i) Court fees	..	Rs. 61,314.70
(ii) Copying fees	..	Rs. 5,897.00

#### Transport Department

At the district level there is a Motor Vehicle Transport Sub-Inspector assisted by a transport clerk. The main duties of the Sub-Inspector are the registration of motor vehicles and the timely realization of taxes. He also tours frequently to check whether the transport rules and regulations are being observed by motor operators. The Collector is the registration authority for the district.

The income derived from this source during the last 5 years is as follows:—

					(Rs.)
1956-57	..	..	..	..	90,288.44
1957-58	..	..	..	..	88,924.04
1958-59	..	..	..	..	1,11,361.75
1959-60	..	..	..	..	1,20,957.76
1960-61	..	..	..	..	1,56,027.19



## Land Revenue

The table given below indicates the total land revenue collection (excluding State Cesses) of the district during the years 1956 to 1961:—

Year	Total Land revenue excluding State Cesses (in Rupees)
1956-57	5,31,495
1957-58	7,06,715
1958-59	9,13,808
1959-60	8,88,911
1960-61	8,46,074

## Income-Tax

The Income-tax Officer, Jodhpur is responsible for the Income-tax collection in the district. Collection figures for the last three years are given in the table below:—

Financial year	<i>Tax collections</i>		Total
	Salaried employees	Non-Salaried assesseees	
1958-59	38,191	3,19,059	3,57,250
1959-60	34,315	3,79,758	4,14,073
1960-61	52,391	3,42,205	3,94,596

## Central Excise duties

Excise duties are levied on tobacco, vegetable non-essential oils and packaged tea. Figures of the total receipts from the Union Excise Duties in the whole of the Sirohi district, are as follows:—

Year	Collection (In rupees)
1956-57	1,61,338.72
1957-58	1,80,161.12
1958-59	4,11,348.40
1959-60	2,70,829.24
1960-61	3,66,013.66

## APPENDIX I

## List of the leading nobles of the Sirohi State.

Name of estate	Title of holder	Sub-division of Sept of holder	Approximate annual income	Remarks
Nandia	Raj Sahib	Sheo Singhot	Rs. 4,500	All belong to the Deora sept of the Chauhan clan. The first four occupy the front seats in darbar and receive the double <i>tazim</i> , the Maharao rising both on their arrival and departure.
Manadar	"	"	6,000	The next four are styled <i>Sarays</i> and sit on the right and left of the chief; they together with Nibaj, also received the double <i>tazim</i> . In the absence of the Thakur of the Padiv his place in
Ajhari	"	"	3,000	
Mandar	Raj Sri	Zorawar Singhot	4,000	
Padiv	Thakur Raj Sri	Sungawat	8,000	
Kalandri	"	"	5,000	
Jawal	"	"	2,000	
Motagaon	"	"	3,000	
Nibaj	"	Lakhawat	10,000	
Rohua	"	Sangawat	3,000	
Bhatana	"	Tejawat	1,000	
Mandwara	"	Dungrawat	2,000	

Dabani	Thakur	Lakhawat	600	darbar is taken by Nibaj; the two never attend together. Rohua and Bhatana, when they come with the Thakur of Nibaj, are honoured with the double <i>mzim</i> ; otherwise like Mandwara and Dabani, they receive the single <i>mzim</i> only.
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The only hereditary office-bearer is the Thakur of Padiv; he binds on the chief's sword when the latter is installed and, on State occasions, sits behind him on his elephant. The tribute payable to the *Darbar* by the above nobles varies from six to eight annas per rupee of their annual income.

## APPENDIX II

<i>Inspection Circle</i>	<i>Patwar Halkas</i>
1	2
Sirohi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sirohi</li> <li>2. Sirohi city</li> <li>3. Barlut</li> <li>4. Mandwa</li> <li>5. Jawal</li> <li>6. Kishanganj</li> <li>7. Dhanta</li> <li>8. Khambal</li> <li>9. Padiv</li> </ol>
Kalandri	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kalandri</li> <li>2. Bhutgaon</li> <li>3. Mandwaria</li> <li>4. Nawara</li> <li>5. Mohabat Nagar</li> <li>6. Fungani</li> <li>7. Madia</li> <li>8. Sildar</li> <li>9. Amlari</li> <li>10. Sonpur</li> <li>11. Jela</li> <li>12. Sartara</li> <li>13. Mermandwara</li> </ol>
Sheoganj	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sheoganj</li> <li>2. Mandar</li> <li>3. Jhadoli</li> <li>4. Las</li> <li>5. Naradara</li> <li>6. Oda</li> <li>7. Paldi</li> <li>8. Wagasin</li> <li>9. Wagasin</li> <li>10. Atwara</li> <li>11. Chuli</li> <li>12. Badgram</li> </ol>

1	2
	13. Pasaliya 14. Jetpura 15. Wan 16. Alia 17. Revara
Reodar	1. Reodar 2. Udwaliya 3. Pamera 4. Dhan 5. Positara 6. Gulabganj 7. Anadra 8. Dabani 9. Hathal 10. Dak 11. Lunol 12. Dhawali 13. Marol 14. Dataui 15. Jeeramal 16. Dantari
Mandar	1. Mandar 2. Magriwara 3. Barman 4. Basan 5. Bhingarh 6. Bharana 7. Padar 8. Nebaj 9. Raipur 10. Pithapura 11. Sorda 12. Jetwara
Abu Road	1. Abu Road 2. Santpur 3. Seldar 4. Manpur 5. Mawal 6. Surpagla

1	2
Kivarli	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kivarli</li><li>2. Chanar</li><li>3. Nichalagarh</li><li>4. Pawa</li><li>5. Dilwara</li><li>6. Girwar</li><li>7. Chandela</li><li>8. Mungwala</li><li>9. Shergaon</li></ol>
Pindwara	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pindwara</li><li>2. Jharoli</li><li>3. Sanwara</li><li>4. Virwara</li><li>5. Kojra</li><li>6. Nadia</li><li>7. Moras</li><li>8. Barli</li><li>9. Basantgarh</li><li>10. Pesua</li></ol>
Bhawri	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bhawri</li><li>2. Rohera</li><li>3. Vasa</li><li>4. Mandwara</li><li>5. Bhula</li><li>6. Bhimana</li></ol>

## APPENDIX III

Rent rates fixed in the *Khalsa* villages of Sirohi State.

1. *Tahsil Sirohi* (Rent rates per *bigha* of land in rupees, annas and pies).

<i>Soil Class</i>	Johra	Circle Magra I	Circle II Magra II
Chahi	3/8/-	3/-/-	2/10/-
Barsali I	-/9/-	-/8/-	-/6/-

2. *Tahsil Reodar*

<i>Soil Class</i>	Circle I	Circle II
Chahi I	3/8/-	2/10/-
Barsali I	-/6/-	-/4/-

3. *Tahsil Sheoganj*

Chahi I 'A'	4/-/-	..
Chahi I	3/-/-	2/10/-
Chahi II	2/10/-	2/4/-
Chahi III	2/-/-	1/12/-
Barsali Chahi I		
Barsali Chahi II	-/8/-	-/6/-
Barsali I		
Barsali II	-/4/-	-/4/-
Barsali Usar	-/1/-	-/1/-
Parat 'A'	-/4/-	-/4/-
Parat	-/2/-	-/2/-

4. *Tahsil Pindwara*

Chahi I	4/-/-	3/8/-
Khatar I	-/12/-	-/12/-

## CHAPTER XII

### LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

#### INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The following statement shows the incidence of some of the more important types of crimes in the district reported during the recent years:

Crime	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Dacoity ..	3	..	2	2	4
Robbery ..	3	5	6	6	5
Murder ..	5	11	10	15	8
Riot ...	5	19	12	16	10
Burglary ..	91	57	63	73	63
Cattle thefts ..	71	28	34	36	24
Other thefts ..	45	35	40	44	28
Miscellaneous I. P. C. crimes ..	138	99	101	155	140
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>282</b>

These figures reveal that the most common crimes are burglary and theft. This may be attributed, partly to the fact that the ex-criminal tribes in certain parts of the district, have not completely given up their lawless ways, though the table shows a significant decline in the number of such crimes.

Generally speaking, the people are law abiding and there are very few crimes of violence. When the figures of the recent years are compared with those of the early years of the present century, the decline in crime is even more pronounced. During the period 1899-1902, a famine raged the territory and consequently, in addition to the anti-social elements, a host of others also indulged in a variety of crimes. In order to get a correct picture of the



crime position in the territory, the figures relating to the period 1899-1902 may be left out. The figures for the years 1900 to 1910 are, therefore, being considered in this comparative study. During the first ten years of the present century, there were on an average 13 cases of dacoity; 16.7 of highway robbery; 97.3 of house breaking; 87.8 of cattle lifting and 97.8 cases of theft every year. These figures do not include the crimes which were committed in the territory of the State which was in the possession of the British Government.

It will be presently seen from the following table that the number of offences decreased in the years that followed.

	Dacoity	Highway robbery	House breaking	Cattle lifting	Theft	Others	Total	PROPERTY	
								Stolen	Recovered.
1900	39	33	148	118	162	614	1,114	57,606	8,014
1910-11	1	26	108	76	94	619	924	35,028	6,023
1920-21	7	27	96	91	114	578	913	54,404	11,493
1930-31	Not available								
1940-41	1	10	18	22	41	344	436	25,458	13,020

The annual average for the years 1957-60 for dacoity was two; robbery 5.5; burglary 64; cattle theft 30.5 and for theft 36.7.

The value of property stolen in 1950 was Rs. 56,936/- of which property worth Rs. 19,464/- was recovered. In 1960 the figures for the property stolen and recovered were Rs. 89,516/- and Rs. 39,643/- respectively.

## POLICE

### Historical Background

In former times the Police Department was under the control of the Judicial Officer of the State and the tahsildars were police officers for their respective areas. At the head

of the police force was a *Faujdar*. The jagirdar were responsible for maintaining peace and to bring culprits to book, if crimes were committed in their areas.

Recruitment of constables was largely from among Rajputs. They were armed with swords. Policemen were also maintained by the Jagirdars, who gave them land in lieu of services rendered.

In 1890-91, the State was divided into 14 Parganas or districts, each under a tahsildar, who was also a police officer. Under him, for police purposes, was a *naib-Faujdar* and as many *Thanedars* as there were *thanas* and *chawkis* in his area. Every *thana* (Police station) covered 10 to 20 villages, the number varying according to the area and population of the circle. There were two *Kotwals*, one posted at Sirohi and the other at Abu Road. There were in all 49 *thanas* and 11 *chawkis* in the State and a total of 106 mounted and 619 foot constables. The *Faujdar* was helped by an Assistant *Faujdar*. About a fifth of the total revenue of the State was spent on maintaining the police force.

About the year 1906, the force was reorganized and the tahsildar ceased to be a police officer. Under the Superintendent of Police, were five *naib-Faujders*, three *Jamadars*, 80 *Thanedars* and 66 mounted constables. The State was divided into nine circles, each of which was under a *naib-Faujdar* or a *Jamadar* (except the Anadra Circle, which was under the Thakur of Nibaj), who was directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Police and also submitted weekly diaries to the Judicial Officer. There were 80 police stations and 41 out-posts. The force consisted of 675 men of all ranks. They were mostly Rajputs and Minas and were armed with swords and countrymade muskets.

In 1910, the police hierarchy was as follows. At the apex was the Superintendent. Under him was one Inspector, one *Fauj-bakshi*, five *naib-Faujders*, one *naib-Fauj-bakshi*, 81 Sawars (mounted police) including *Jamadars* and *Thanedars* and 639 foot police including *Jam dars* and *Thanedars*. Later a Deputy Superintendent was appointed, as well as Circle Inspectors.

The set-up in 1930 was as follows:—One Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, two Circle Inspectors, one

Prosecuting Inspector, 15 Sub-Inspectors, 41 head constables, 17 camel and horse *sawars* and 309 constables and chowkidars. Later, a post of Inspector-General was created to head the police force; simultaneously, that of Deputy Superintendent was abolished. The permanent sanctioned strength in 1940-41 consisted of an Inspector-General of Police, a Superintendent, two Inspectors, a Public Prosecutor, 14 Sub-Inspectors, 40 head constables and 317 constables. There were, besides, temporary posts of one Sub-Inspector, five head constables and 45 chowkidars specially recruited for checking the activities of the criminal tribes of Juda Patta and of the villages bordering the State. There were 11 police stations, three outposts and 52 road patrolling *chowkies* in 1942-43. With minor changes, this pattern continued till the merger.

*Training.*—After recruitment, constables were given training in the Police Lines at Sihoh by the Lines Officer and Drill Instructors. The majority of the constables being illiterate, a night school was opened in the Lines. No regular arrangement existed for the training of the higher categories of police personnel but at times selected officers were sent to the Police Training College at Sagaur or for a weapon training course at Nimach.

*Military Police.*—The State maintained a military police force. The Inspector-General of Police was ex-officio commandant and he was assisted by a *Subedar* and two *Jamadars*. The strength of this force in 1940-41 was 125 all ranks. It was composed of three platoons of *Kayamkhanis*, Minas and Rajputs, armed with rifles. In practice, this force was used mainly for anti-dacoity operations in time of emergency.

*Other armed forces.*—There were no regular State or Imperial service troops, except a body of regular infantry (about 120 men) at headquarters, whose main duties were to guard the jail, treasury and palaces, and appear on ceremonial occasions, though at times it was also used to curb crime and overawe jagirdars and others when they assumed a turbulent attitude. This unit had eight guns and was known as the *Kesar Paltan*.

*Special Police.*—The State also maintained a unit of special police, which had one *Haveldar* and 39 Sepoys in 1940-41.

**After Merger**

Before the merger, all the above forces were under the Inspector-General of Police. Just after the merger in January 1950, the Superintendent of Police of the new district took charge from the I.G.P. The S.P. also remained Commandant of the State Military Police and the *Kesar* Infantry.

In the new set-up the police was divided into two categories, viz., Civil Police and Armed Police. The Civil Police was headed by a Superintendent, under him were a Deputy Superintendent, a Circle Inspector, 12 Sub-Inspectors and 52 Head Constables. There was a total of 309 constables. The prosecuting staff was comprised of a Prosecuting Inspector, two Head Constables and three constables. The Armed Police force was formed from among personnel of the former Sirohi Military Police and *Kesar* Infantry. The military police at the time, had one *Subedar*, a *Jamadar*, 11 *Haveldars*, 16 *Naiks*, 24 Lance-*Naiks* and 168 soldiers, numbering 221 in all. Thirteen parties from this force (65 soldiers in all) were now posted at various parts of the district and seven guard units (28 soldiers) were retained at the district headquarters. The *Kesar* Infantry had a strength of 97, all ranks. By an Act passed in 1950, these armed forces were merged with the 5th Battalion of the R.A.C. in 1952. In 1950, there were eight police stations and 14 outposts located at the following places in the district :

<i>Police Stations</i>	<i>Out posts</i>
1. City Kotwali, Sirohi	1. Ruhva Vav
2. Pindwara	2. Sirohi Road
	3. Parlai
	4. Moras
3. Rohera	5. Sarupganj
	6. Bhula
	7. Bharja
	8. Gopala Beda
4. Pamora	9. Dantra
5. Kalandri	10. Sildar
6. Barloot	11. Lash
7. Erinpura	12. Sheoganj
	13. Posalia
	14. Rowara
8. Mandar	

When the Abu area was restored in 1956, one more circle (Abu Road) was set up and a new post of Deputy Superintendent of Police was created. As a result, two police stations (Abu Road and Mount Abu), along with five out-posts came into existence.

### Present position

The police force in the district is still divided into the two categories of Civil Police and Armed Police. The total strength is as follows :—

Superintendent	1
Deputy Superintendents	2
Inspectors	2
Sub-Inspectors	17
Head Constables	93
Constables	436

The strength of each of the two categories is as follows :—

#### *Armed Police*

Reserve Inspector	1
Reserve Sub-Inspector	1
Head Constables	37
Constables	146

#### *Civil Police*

Circle Inspector	..
Prosecuting Inspector	1
Sub-Inspectors	16
Head Constables	56
Constables	290

For purposes of police administration, the district is divided into two circles—Sirohi and Abu, each under a Deputy Superintendent. The headquarters of the Sirohi circle are at Sirohi and that of the Abu circle at Mount Abu. The Sirohi circle has four police stations and the Abu circle six. There are 23 outposts under these ten police stations.

The set-up is as follows :—

*Sirohi Circle*

<i>Police Station</i>	<i>Out-posts</i>
1. Erinpura	1. Sheoganj
	2. Rewara
2. Barloot	3. Posalia
3. Kalandri	4. Manadar
4. Sirohi City	5. Sildar
	6. Rova Vav

*Abu Circle*

1. Abu Road	1. Abu Road Town
	2. Bhakar
	3. Taleti
	4. Vajana
	5. Gopala Beda
2. Mount Abu	6. Delwara
	7. Arna
	8. Chhipa Beri
	9. Nim Taleti
3. Rohera	10. Bharja
	11. Sarupganj
	12. Bhula
4. Pindwara	13. Sirohi Road
	14. Plas
	15. Moras
5. Mandar	
6. Pamera	16. Dantrai
	17. Anadra

At each out-post there is one head constable and three constables.

*Police Lines.*—The Reserve Inspector is incharge of the Lines, which are located at Sirohi. All police stores, including arms and ammunition are controlled by him. A mess is also run in the Lines and a mess allowance of Rs. 5/- per month is given to every constable. Minor repairs to weapons are carried out in the armoury. New recruits

receive initial training here, which includes simple drill and cultivation of regular habits. For further training they are sent to Jodhpur and Udaipur. Sub-Inspectors are sent to Training School at Kishangarh for a refresher course.

*Traffic Police.*—There are only six traffic constables posted at Sirohi town.

*Special Branch.*—This section is controlled by the C.I.D. headquarters at Jaipur. The staff consists of a Sub-Inspector, a Head Constable and a constable.

*Wireless.*—Formerly there were two police wireless stations but now there is only one. The S.P. of the district exercises administrative control, whereas the S.P. Radio, whose headquarters are at Jaipur, has maintenance and supervisory control of the unit.

#### Anti-Corruption Squad

The Anti-Corruption Department has a section stationed at Jodhpur consisting of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, a Public Prosecutor, a Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables, and six constables. His area of jurisdiction extends over Jodhpur, Pali and Sirohi districts.

#### S. P. Office

The staff of the office of the Superintendent of Police consists of four Upper Division Clerks, 10 Lower Division Clerks and a Stenographer.

#### Railway Police

In the time of the princely State, the Government of India maintained a separate police force on the B.B.&C.I. Railway, which passed through this area. The force belonged to the Bombay establishment and was under the control of the Inspector General of Police of Bombay Presidency. After the merger of the State, the district police posted constables at the railway stations. On September 1, 1954 a separate railway police was established at Falna consisting of one Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and 14 constables. There was a railway police station at Abu Road, which was taken over on 1st November, 1956 when the area merged

with Rajasthan. The railway police station at Falna was, however, abolished and an out-post was established there. The sanctioned strength of the Abu Road police station is one Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and 22 constables; at the Falna out-post, there is one Head Constable and six constables. The railway police is under the control of the Superintendent of Police (Railways), whose headquarters are at Jaipur. The jurisdiction of the Abu Road police station runs from Maval station to Keshavganj. There are two railway police lock-ups at Abu Road station; one for men and the other for women. The following statement shows cases registered during recent years:

Year	Thefts on running trains	Thefts in stations	Thefts in goods yards	Miscellaneous	Total
1955	1	3	..	12	16
1958	7	11	2	30	50
1960	6	6	9	22	43

#### Railway Protection Force

There is also a unit of the Railway Protection Force at Abu Road station. The staff consists of one Sub-Inspector, nine *Havildars*, 11 *Naiks* and 88 *Sainiks*. The controlling authority is the Assistant Security Officer, Western Railway, at Ajmer. The jurisdiction of the Sub-Inspector extends from Falna to Palanpur and from Palanpur to Radhanpur. The number of cases registered in recent years are as under:

Year	Thefts in running trains	Thefts in yards	Thefts on platforms	Loco shed thefts	Coal thefts	Total
1959-60	5	5	2	6	4	22
1960-61	6	7	3	5	7	28

#### Central Police Training College, Abu

On September 15, 1948 a training college for I.P.S. Officers was opened at Mount Abu. At first the college was housed in army barracks but soon it acquired on lease,



the premises of the old Lawrence School for housing its office, class-rooms and library and the Rajputana Hotel for its Officers' mess. More buildings have since been taken on lease to provide additional accommodation for mess and residence for the staff.

The curriculum at the college is designed to impart all round training to the probationer for the service he has entered. He is taught the Indian Constitution, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure. Forensic Science in all its branches of chemistry, medicine, photography, surveying and ballistics is taught both in theory and individual exercises performed by each probationer. A short period of attachment to an army unit is also arranged so as to give the probationer a knowledge of field-craft, tactics and military organisation.

Extra-curricular activities of the college besides horse riding, sports and games include a Camera Club, a Cinema Club and an Amateur Dramatic Club.

At the end of the training, the Union Public Service Commission conducts an examination in all the subjects in which the probationers have undergone training and their confirmation in the service is subject to passing this examination in all subjects.

Between 1948-1960, 636 I.P.S. probationers (519 regular and 117 special recruits) were trained at the college. This figure includes 15 officers from Nepal.

An advance course of six months duration was started on 6th June, 1960. This course is aimed at re-orienting the outlook of senior officers providing them facility for mutual exchange of ideas and making available to them latest developments in technique. Before re-organisation of the school, on the basis of the recommendation of a high powered committee of Inspectors-General of Police under the chairmanship of the Director, Intelligence Bureau in 1958, the school had following staff:

**Administrative staff**

Commandant	1
Assistant Commandant	1
Administrative Officer	1

**Training staff**

Chief Drill Inspector	1
Chief Law Inspector	1
Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors	7

The changes made at the time of re-organisation were the appointment of a Deputy Commandant (of the rank of D.I.G.), upgrading the posts of indoor staff from the rank of Inspector to that of Deputy Superintendent and the creation of two posts of Crime Inspectors, also of the rank of D.S.P. Four Superintendents of Police were also sanctioned in January, 1960, in connection with the Advance Course.

The sanctioned staff of the College during the year 1960 was as under :

**Administrations**

- 1 Commandant.
- 1 Deputy Commandant.
- 1 Assistant Commandant.
- 1 Administrative Officer.

**Instructional**

- 4 Senior Inspectors (Supdt. of Police).
- 2 Law Inspectors (Dy. S. P.)
- 2 Crime Inspectors (Dy. S. P.)
- 1 Inspector in Scientific Aids to Investigation (Dy. S.P.)
- 1 Chief Drill Inspector (Dy. S. P.)
- 1 Inspector of the rank of Dy. S. P. from the Intelligence Bureau.
- 1 Inspector in M.T./W.T. (Dy. S. P.)
- 1 Hindi Teacher.

There are seven Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, 22 Head Constables and 68 constables. The office staff consists of 23 members. The miscellaneous staff consists of one Veterinary Officer, one Librarian, two Wireless Operators, one Cinema Projectionist, one Head Mechanic, one Jamadar, one

Laboratory Assistant, one Barrier, twenty-five *syces*, seven *malis*, four *bhisthis*, ten sweepers and one cook.

The college maintains a stable with 25 horses.

### JAIL ADMINISTRATION

During the State times, there was a central jail at the capital and lock-ups at the headquarters of each tahsil. Prior to 1890-92, when the present jail building was constructed, the central jail was lodged in an old, ill-ventilated and unsafe building providing accommodation for 55 convicts (50 males and five females). The present jail was constructed in 1891-92 at a cost of about Rs. 36,000/- and can accommodate 120 male and 15 female prisoners. It consists of three barracks, each measuring 120×18 feet and provided with barred windows reaching to the floor and is surrounded by a masonry wall eighteen feet in height with live electric wires fixed to it.

The Judicial Officer of the State was also the Superintendent of the central jail. Later on, the two offices were separated.

After merger, it was categorised as 'C' class District Jail till 31st March, 1954, when it was categorised as 'A' Class judicial lock-up. After its conversion into judicial lock-up, all kinds of under-trial prisoners and convicts sentenced up to one month's imprisonment are kept here. Each police station in the district has one lock-up. Other convicts are transferred to the Central Jail located at Jodhpur. The juvenile convicts are transferred to Reformatory Home located at Tonk. The number of the prisoners kept during the recent years is as under :

Year	Prisoners
1951-52	204
1952-53	292
1953-54	368
1954-55	336
1955-56	1,022
1956-57	223
1957-58	213
1958-59	283
1959-60	450
1960-61	620

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate is the Officer-incharge of the lock-up. The staff of the jail consists of one Assistant Jailor, two Head Warders and eight Warders. The Inspector-General of Prisons, headquartered at Jaipur is the controlling authority in all respects.

### Welfare

Till quite recently, very little attention was paid to the welfare of the prisoners. It was common to put them on various types of manual job, such as lithographic press of the State, construction of palaces, garden work etc. They were also engaged to manufacture cloth for their own use and *darries* and *niwar* for the use of the State, in a factory attached to the Central Jail. The vegetables grown by them were for their own consumption. The charges for diet and clothing per prisoner, according to a report on Sirohi Administration, was two annas and two pies per day during the year 1940.

To prevent unauthorised use of prisoners, a rule was introduced in 1940-41 that departments utilizing prisoners for manual labour, should pay for them to the Jail Department at the rate of two annas per day.

Sick and persons of unusually bad character were kept in separate barracks. There was no classification nor there were separate barracks for political prisoners. Facilities for providing religious books to those who were interested were available. Lectures on moral instructions were also sometimes delivered to improve their conduct.

Now, there is a board of visitors who see that the premises are tidy and food served to the prisoners is satisfactory. Visits of relatives are permitted according to the rules. A Medical Officer visits the jail on alternate days and a compounder administers medicines to the sick daily.

## JUDICIARY

### Historical Sketch

Before 1875, no regular codes of laws existed and the cases were disposed of by the presiding officers according to their own lights. Wherever possible, the assistance of the *panchayats* was sought but more of the cases were

dealt with by **Hakims** who combined both executive as well as judicial functions. Moreover, the proceedings of a case were seldom recorded and no files or registers were maintained.

**Maharao Keshari Singh**, who ascended the throne in 1875, took keen interest in the administration and separate civil and criminal courts were established and codification of laws began. Rules for the prevention of gambling were introduced in the towns of Sirohi, Sheoganj and Abu Road in 1888 and Codes and Acts of Government of India like I.P.C., C.P.C., Cr.P.C., Whipping Act, Indian Limitation Act and Indian Court Fees Act were enforced within the cantonment at Erinpura in 1890. In the same year the commanding officer of the Erinpura battalion was granted magisterial powers by the Dair.

For the sake of convenience, the courts in the State could be grouped under three classes viz. (1) those deriving their authority from the Darbar, (2) those established by the Governor-General in Council with the consent of the Maharao and (3) others or inter-statal. These are described in this order.

#### Local or State Courts

Of these courts, the lowest was that of the *Kotwal* of Sirohi, who could pass a sentence of imprisonment up to two weeks and impose fine up to Rs. 25/- and decide civil suits not exceeding Rs. 25/- in valuation. Next in the hierarchy came the courts of various tahsildars and the magistrate of Kharari (Abu Road) empowered to impose imprisonment up to two months and fine up to Rs. 100/- and to dispose of civil suits not exceeding Rs. 300/- in valuation. Appeals against the decisions of all these courts could be made to the Judicial Officer, who was both District Magistrate and District Judge. The Diwan had the powers of a Sessions Judge, heard appeals against the decrees of the Judicial Officers and tried all suits exceeding Rs. 3,000/- in valuation. All cases of importance were laid before His Highness, who alone could order capital punishment. He was the final appellate authority in all matters and could alter or modify the order of any subordinate court. The criminal work of the courts was not heavy and the civil suits many of which were decided by *panchayats*, usually related to small money transactions; appeals were comparatively rare.

The Darbar had full jurisdiction throughout the State (except where it had been ceded to the British Government) and only one jagirdar (the Thakur of Nibaj) had been invested with limited powers, which he could exercise in cases, in which both parties were resident on his estate. Appeals against his decisions and cases by and his powers were heard by the Judicial Officer.

### **British Courts**

Among the courts established by the Governor-General in Council, mention may first be made of those having jurisdiction in portions of the State occupied by the Rajputana-Malwa Railway. The civil suits were disposed of by the Assistant Commissioner of Merwara, who had also the powers of a court of small causes and a district court. Criminal cases were decided either by the Superintendent of Railway Police or his assistant, who had respectively first and second class magisterial powers, or by the Resident, Western Rajputana States. The Commissioner of Ajmer was the Sessions Judge and the Agent to the Governor-General in Council, the High Court.

The British Government had civil and criminal jurisdiction in the following areas: Civil Station of Abu, the road connecting it with Abu Road Railway Station, village Anadra (granted to British in 1866) and Kharari Bazar (granted to British in 1881), except when both the parties were subjects of Sirohi. This jurisdiction was exercised by the magistrate of Abu, who, on his civil side had the powers of a judge of court of small causes as defined in the Abu and Anadra Small Cause Courts Law of 1889 and of a District Court (the Governor General's Agent being the Appellate and the High Court), while on the criminal side he was a District Magistrate (the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara and the Agent to the Governor General in Council, being respectively the Court of Sessions and the High Court).

Lastly, the magistrate of Abu (within his charge) and the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the first Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Council (throughout Rajputana) being European British subjects—were Justices of Peace, working as committing courts under the High Court at Bombay.

### Inter-Statal Courts

There was only one Marwar Court of Vakils, established about 1844. It was under the supervision of the Resident and appeals against its decision lay to the Upper Court of Vakils at Abu. Others were the Border Courts, intended for a very rude state of society, where tribal quarrels, affrays in the jungle, the lifting of women and cattle and all the blood feuds and reprisals thus generated had to be settled. The courts usually consisted of the British Officers in political charge of the States concerned and after hearing the evidence, they either dismissed the case or awarded compensation to the complainant.

In the year 1940, some changes were made in the organisation of State courts. It was as follows:

### High Court

A High Court was established on October 7, 1940 on the lines of those in British India. It was now made free from executive control and was given the power to hear and dispose of all Judicial appeals and revision applications, which formerly lay to the *Mahakma Khass*. The High Court was now the final court of appeal in civil and criminal matters. The revenue and miscellaneous appeals were heard and decided by the Council of States.

### District and Sessions Court

On the civil side this court had the powers to try all original suits of the value of over Rs. 5,000/- and to hear appeals from the decrees of the civil and subordinate judges. On the criminal side, it had the powers of a Court of Sessions as well as jurisdiction to hear appeals in all criminal cases decided by magistrates. The District and Sessions Judge also exercised the functions of Extradition Officer, Registrar and Superintendent of cattle-pounds. He also looked after the administrative side of the Judicial Department, under the direct control of the Chief Minister of the State.

### District Magistrate's Court

...Till December 1940, there was a District Magistrate with civil powers for each of the two divisions i.e. Eastern

and Western of the State with headquarters at Abu Road and Sirohi. On the civil sides, these courts had original jurisdiction in suits up to the value of Rs. 5,000/- and heard appeals from the decrees of tahsildars' and *thikana* courts. On the criminal side, besides exercising the powers of the first class magistrates, they also heard appeals against convictions by tahsildars' and *thikana* courts.

With the reorganisation of the revenue machinery in December 1940, civil powers hitherto exercised by tahsildars were transferred to the two newly appointed sub-judges. The magisterial powers of the tahsildars at Pindwara and Sheoganj were raised from second class to that of first class. The two posts of District Magistrates were amalgamated and there remained only one District Magistrate for whole of the State.

One of the sub-judges was headquartered at Abu Road and the other was a touring one, who held his court in rotation at Sheoganj, Barloot, Kalandri and Mandar for the convenience of the litigants in these areas. The sub-judges had the powers to hear suits up to Rs. 500/-.

#### **Tahsil Courts**

All the tahsildars were invested with magisterial powers. The tahsildar at Sheoganj and Pindwara exercised first class magisterial power, whereas the tahsildars at Sirohi, Abu Road and Reodar were second class. The *naib-tahsildar* at Delwara was a third class magistrate.

#### **Thikana Courts**

The Nibaj *thikana* had judicial powers of a second class magistrate and in civil matters tried suits up to Rs. 500/-. The padir *thikana* exercised third class magisterial powers and heard suits up to Rs. 3000/-. The territorial jurisdiction conferred on these two *thikana* was limited to their respective *thikana* villages.

#### **Revenue Court**

Revenue and executive cases were dealt with by the tahsils and *Mahakma Mal* according to the nature of the cases.



**Others**

In 1941-42, a honorary magistrate was appointed to deal with the cases connected with the municipal affairs and was headquartered at Abu Road. He was invested with first class magisterial powers and also with powers of a sub-judge to hear and decide civil suits connected with the Abu Road Municipality.

Another honorary magistrate was appointed at Mandar in 1943-44 and was invested with third class magisterial powers. Twenty-two villages were under his jurisdiction.

In 1946, when High Denomination Bank Notes Demonetisation Ordinance 1946, of the Government of India was issued, two special first class magistrates were appointed to attest the forms required, in this connection.

Some of the *panchayats* were given powers to decide petty cases but very little progress was made in this direction.

With minor changes, this organisational set-up remained till 1947, when an administrator having judicial powers of an Additional District Magistrate was appointed who continued up to 25th January 1950.

**Present Position**

After the formation of Rajasthan, the Collector of the district was appointed as District Magistrate by virtue of his office and the Assistant Collector in charge of the subdivision was appointed First Class Magistrate. There were five tahsils in the district viz., Sirohi, Reodar, Pindwara, Sheoganj and Bhawari and except the tahsildar at Pindwara, who enjoyed second class magisterial powers, all the other four were invested with first class magisterial powers. The tahsil of Bhawari was abolished in October 1951.

The court of Civil and Additional Sessions Judge was constituted on 1st July 1950. A Munsif Court was also set up later at Sirohi.

When Abu area came back to this district on 1st November 1956, the number of the tahsils was again increased to

five, namely; Sirohi, Sheoganj, Pindwara, Abu Road and Reodar. One more sub-division (Abu Road) was set up with a Sub-Divisional Officer headquartered at Mount Abu. When Abu area was under Bombay State, there was a Civil Judge at Abu Road but he was invested with magisterial powers on 1st February 1957 and was designated as Munsif Magistrate Abu Road.

At present, the District and Sessions Judge for the district is headquartered at Pali. The court of the Civil and Additional Sessions Judge is located at Sirohi. Under his jurisdiction is whole of the Sirohi district including Bali and Desuri tahsils of Pali district (which came under his jurisdiction on 1-5-1955). The two courts of Munsif Magistrates are located at Sirohi and Abu Road. The jurisdiction of the former is over Sirohi, Reodar and Sheoganj tahsils, while that of latter is over Pindwara and Abu Road tahsils.

The Collector as District Magistrate is subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge in criminal matters but controls all the revenue courts in the district. Under him in both criminal and revenue matters, are the Sub-Divisional Officers and Sub-Divisional Magistrates at Sirohi and Mount Abu, both of whom exercise First Class powers. Since the criminal case work is not heavy, there are no extra-Magistrates at present. The tahsildars have lesser criminal and revenue powers in their respective tahsils. Their magisterial powers are as follows :

Abu Road	Second Class Magistrate
Sirohi	-do-
Sheoganj	Third Class Magistrate
Reodar	-do-
Pindwara	-do-

The following statement shows the institution and disposal of revenue and criminal cases in the district during the year 1960-61:

	Previ- ous Bal- ance	Instituted du- ring the year	Total	Disposal during the year	Balance
Revenue cases	327	1,305	1,632	1,201	431
Criminal cases	237	656	893	732	161

The following table will reveal the nature of I.P.C. Cases (sections) instituted in different courts of the district during the year 1960-61

<u>Sections</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Cases</u>
302-311	20	379-382	40
312-318	1	384-389	2
323-338	75	392-402	6
341-348	5	403-404	2
352-358	1	406-409	18
363-374	15	411-416	3
376	2	417-420	7

The number of cases instituted under the special and local laws in different courts of the district during the year 1960-61 was 904. Of these, 139 were instituted under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; 269 under the Indian Motor Vehicle Act; 259 under the Indian Railways Act; 65 under the 34 Police Act; 56 under the Bombay Police Act; 16 under the Excise Act; 48 under the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act; 11 under the Essential Commodities Act; 19 under the Bombay Prohibition Act; 7 under the Weekly Ho'diday Act; 4 under the Opium Act; 3 under the Rajasthan Forest Act; 3 under the Untouchability Act; 3 under the Minimum Wages Act; 3 under the Shops and Commercial Establishments Act; 2 under the Mrityu Bhoj Act; 2 under the Cattle Trespass Act; 1 under the 91 Land Revenue Act; 1 under the Industry Cement Act; and 1 under the Indian Arms Act.

In the same year, the offences relating to documents and trade or property marks numbered 40. Of these 6 were instituted under offences relating to manicoedy; 4 under the defamation and 30 under criminal intimidation insult and annoyance.

#### **Legal Profession**

There is a Bar Association at Sirohi, with 43 members on the roll, of whom 19 are advocates and the rest pleaders. It has a small library.

## CHAPTER XIII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Activities of the departments, which have not found mention in other Chapters, are dealt with in this Chapter.

#### **Public Works Department**

The office of the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department (B. & R.), South Division, is located at Sirohi town, with sub-divisional offices at Mount Abu and Sirohi. The districts of Pali and Jalore are also under his jurisdiction. The sub-division at Mt. Abu was set up in June 1960. The Divisional Office was shifted from Jodhpur to Sirohi in August 1960.

The strength of the Divisional Office consists of one Executive Engineer, one divisional accountant, one head clerk, one stenographer, seven U.D.Cs., eleven L.D.Cs., one senior draughtsman, one junior draughtsman, two tracers, two Engineering subordinates, one foreman and nine class IV servants. Each sub-division has a staff consisting of an Assistant Engineer, four Engineering subordinates one U.D.C., one L.D.C. and two class IV employees.

Apart from the road building programme described in the chapter on communications, the main functions of the district office are construction, repair and maintenance of government buildings. Some of the more important construction works undertaken in recent years are : Sarneshwarji Boarding House at Sirohi, Seed Multiplication Farm at Ora, quarters for officers at Pindwara Development Block, District Seed Store at Sirohi, Police Station at Mandar, cottages and quarters for ministerial staff at Raj Bhawan Mt. Abu, barracks for police staff at Mt. Abu and Primary Health Centre at Kalandri.

#### **District Archives**

The office of the District Archives, set up in 19, in a spacious building is located at Sirohi. The staff consists of Incharge, one L.D.C. and one peon. The controlling authority is the Director of Archives, Rajasthan, with headquarters at Bikaner.

**Department of Mines and Geology**

The office of Senior Mines Foreman was set up at Sirohi on 11th November, 1952. In April, 1959, Jalore district was also brought under this sub-division.

The revenue, earned in the form of royalty on minerals and rent of the quarries granted under rent-cum-royalty leases, has considerably increased during the last two years. The position of the various mining leases, prospecting licenses, rent-cum-royalty leases, royalty and direct working contracts which are in force, is given as under :—

	No.
1. Mining leases (major as well as minor minerals)	25
2. Prospecting licenses	6
3. Rent-cum-royalty leases	150
4. Royalty collection contracts	60
5. Direct working contracts	15

The present staff of the office consists of a senior Mines Foreman, two L.D.Cs. and three mine-guards. The office is under the control of Mining Engineer, Mines and Geology Department, Jodhpur Division, Jodhpur.

**Office of Community Project Officer (Industries)**

This office was set up in Sumerpur (Pali) in October, 1958 and was shifted to Sirohi in April 1959. The Community Project Officer (Industry) is responsible for co-ordinating the programmes of various central boards and the Industries Department of the State Government. His staff consists of an officer, one U.D.C.-cum-Steno, a driver and a class IV employee. The controlling authority is the Joint Development Commissioner, headquartered at Jaipur.

**Survey and Investigation Sub-division, Sirohi**

It was opened in 1954 to locate sites for irrigation projects and report on the potentiality and feasibility of various irrigation projects. Butri, Poidra and Dantaprojects have been sanctioned for survey, West Banas and Bithan are under construction and Kamari, Ker, Nandwara and Angore, are under submission to the Government. The projects Moongthala, Bhanse Singh, Unwaria and Sukli are pending consideration.

Besides the Assistant Engineer, the staff consists of six Engineering subordinates, one junior draughtsman, two L.D.Cs. and a peon. The controlling authority is the Executive Engineer, Survey & Investigation, headquartered at Jalore.

### District Employment Exchange

The exchange was set up at Sirohi in March 1959. The staff consists of an Employment Officer, one U.D.C., one L.D.C., one guide and two peons. The following figures indicate the work done at the exchange so far:—

Date	No. of employment given.	No. of unemployed persons.
21-3-59 to 31-12-59	330	663
1-1-60 to 31-12-60	601	1,006
1-1-61 to 31-3-61	144	679

### Water Works Sub-Division, Sirohi

Originally set up in 1958 at Sanderao (district Sirohi) to look after the Jawai-Hemawas canal, this office was shifted to Sirohi in April 1960. At present, it looks after the water supply schemes of Sirohi and Jalore districts. The staff consists of an Assistant Engineer, five Engineering subordinates, two L.D.Cs. and a Store Keeper. The controlling authority is the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, headquartered at Jodhpur.

### Rajasthan State Roadways

There are two offices of Depot Managers—one at Sirohi, set up in 1954 and the other at Abu Road, opened in January 1957.

The Abu Road depot runs seven routes with a fleet of 28 buses, and also maintains a few taxi cars. The sanctioned strength of the staff is 139. The Sirohi depot serves

6 routes with a fleet of 13 buses, two cars and two trucks. Its sanctioned staff strength is 44.

### **Court of Wards**

After merger, the work of the Court of Wards was in the overall charge of the Collector, who was assisted by an Assistant Manager, Court of Wards and one *Kamdar*. The estates were grouped in four circles, each under supervision of an official known as *Havildar*. These circles were Mandar, Magriwada, Mandwaria and Madia. The State Board of Revenue acted as guardian in respect of estates placed under Court of Wards.

After abolition of Jagirdari, the department became defunct and at present a single clerk deals with Court of Wards as well as rehabilitation work in the Collectorate.

### **Rehabilitation Department**

Most of the refugees, who migrated to this district after partition, have now left the district due to its economic backwardness. Collector and the tahsildars used to look after their rehabilitation. Except some loan cases, the work has almost come to an end and is dealt with by a clerk who also deals with the work connected with Court of Wards. The Deputy Custodian at Jodhpur holds the charge of evacuee property in the district.

### **Office of the Public Relations Officer**

There is an office of the Public Relations Officer located in Sirohi town. He is responsible for the publicity work of the government and is under the control of Director Public Relations, headquartered at Jaipur.

## **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

The following departments of the Central Government are functioning in the district.

### **National Savings Office**

Under the National Savings Scheme, a Small Savings Organizer has been posted at Sirohi. He works under the

supervision of the Collector and is also responsible to the Deputy Regional National Savings Officer stationed at Jaipur.

### Central Excise Department

Under the Superintendent of Central Excise, Jodhpur, three Inspectors with their staff, work in this district to check and renew the licenses, to assess tobacco for excise duty and to register tobacco cultivation.

### Meteorological Observatory

There is a second class observatory located at Mt. Abu, with one observer, one deputy observer and one messenger. Readings are taken in the morning and afternoon and are sent to the Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi. The Administrative Officer of the Police Training College is the honorary Superintendent of the Observatory.

### Posts and Telegraphs Department

In 1906, there were four sub-offices namely Abu, Erinpura, Rohera and Sirohi; seven branch offices, namely, Anadra, Jawal, Kalandri, Mandar, Pindwara, Rohera station and Siana all under the head office at Abu Road. Telegraph offices existed at Abu, Abu Road, Erinpura and Sirohi.

In March 1960, there were sixty-six post offices—eight sub-offices and fifty-eight branch offices. This number increased to seventy-four in March 1961, when one new sub-office and seven new branch offices were opened. Most of the sub-offices are combined offices.

There are three telephone exchanges at Abu, Abu Road and Sirohi. The exchange at Abu was opened in the State times whereas the Sirohi and Abu Road exchanges were opened in 1955 and 1956 respectively. There is no automatic exchange in the district. The number of connections are as under :

Exchange	Connection	
	Main	Extensions
Abu	45	6
Abu Road	24	2
Sirohi	36	2



**Central Police Training College, Mt. Abu**

It is an institution to impart training to I.P.S. officers. A detailed account of the institution is given in the Chapter 'Law and Order and Justice'.

**Office of the Director, Western Circle, Survey of India Mt. Abu**

The office was set up on 21st March, 1956, with headquarters at Mount Abu. The work is distributed among the six parties : No. 3 Drawing office Abu, No. 3 Party Abu, No. 4 Party Abu, No. 6 Party Abu, No. 7 Party Abu and No. 32 Party Abu. An area of 59,560 sq. miles have been surveyed since 1956-57 to 1960-61. The States of Rajasthan, Gujrat and Maharashtra fall under its jurisdiction. The Surveyor General of India, headquartered at Dehradur, is the controlling authority.

**Income-Tax Department**

The Income-tax Officer headquartered at Jodhpur has his jurisdiction over this district. He and his subordinate staff make periodical tours of the district. The appeal against the decisions of the Income-tax Officer lies to the Assistant Commissioner, Income-tax (Appellate) who also is headquartered at Jodhpur.

## CHAPTER XIV

### LOCAL-SELF GOVERNMENT

#### HISTORY

No records are available, however, it seems probable that village panchayats existed in this district even before the feudal system got firmly established after which the local-self government virtually disappeared from the villages and the people started obeying the dictates of others rather than getting their corporate life supervised by the representatives chosen by them. However, in several communities, such as Rajputs, Brahmins, Dhand Girasias, the councils known as Caste (*Jati*) panchayats, continued to exist. These panchayats merely performed certain social functions aimed at protecting the interests of the communities they served. The Caste panchayats did not have official powers or functions but their decisions were carried out because of the strength of social sanctions behind them; specially among the Tribal communities, which are in substantial majority in the areas of Pindwara and Abu Road tahsils, the social sanctions play an important role.

In 1940-41, the Panchayat Act and Rules were enacted and introduced, and steps were taken to establish village panchayats in all such villages the population of which exceeded 500 souls. The purpose of the panchayats was to foster and develop a spirit of public service in the rural population and to avoid unnecessary expenditure to them on petty litigation.<sup>1</sup> During the year 1941-42, village panchayats were established in 11 villages. The panchayats were invested with powers to take cognizance of several petty offences under the Sirohi Penal Code and Cattle Trespass Act.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1940-41, p. 30.

2. *Ibid.* 1941-42, p. 39.

In order to enlighten the rural folk on the benefits of village panchayats, and assist and advise them in the establishment and functioning of them, a special officer was appointed during the year 1942-43. The officer was selected from the local bar and was accorded all possible facilities to go round the district to explain the advantages of this institution.<sup>1</sup> It was felt that village panchayats were not evincing sufficient interest. Similarly, allied questions of rural uplift required better attention and guidance. Therefore, it was decided in 1942-43 to appoint a Rural Uplift Officer to enlighten the village folk on the benefits of village panchayats and assist and advise them in the establishment and proper functioning of the same.<sup>2</sup> The Tahsil Advisory Committees (panchayats) were given powers in 1945-46 to decide petty cases but they did not show progress. People had little confidence in the impartiality of the members and, therefore, were reluctant to place their cases before these non-officials. Thus the panchayats made very slow progress till the state existed.

The Rajasthan Panchayat Act was passed in 1953. After 1st January, 1954, 87 village and 4 tahsil panchayats were formed in the district. The panchayats were given minor judicial powers. Democratic Decentralization brought significant changes. At the close of 1960-61, there were 133 panchayats in the district. The tahsil panchayats were abolished and their place was taken by panchayat samitis, the territorial jurisdiction of which coincided with the development blocks and shadow blocks. At the district level, there was Zila Parishad to co-ordinate development activities for the whole district.

From the account given by Erskine in the Sirohi State Gazetteer regarding the municipalities, it appears that there were no municipalities in the true sense of the term in

1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1942-43, p. 8.

2. *Ibid.*, 1943-44, p. 47.

3. *Ibid.*, 1945-46, p. 62.

the Sirohi State. However, there were small committees at Abu, Abu Road and Sheoganj. The Municipal and Sanitary Committee of Abu was established in 1865.<sup>1</sup> In 1891 sanitary and conservancy arrangements were made available to Abu Road and Sheoganj towns. It was in 1923 that a Municipal Committee came into being at Abu Road. Similarly, municipalities were established at Sirohi and Pindwara in 1921 and 1941 respectively. In the beginning, the municipalities were supervised by the State officials but gradually elections were introduced and wider powers and more responsibility was given to them. Since October, 1959, all of these municipalities are administered under the Rajasthan Municipal Act of 1959. There has never been any District Board in the area.

### MUNICIPALITIES

#### Abu

Abu was the first town of the Sirohi State to have a municipality. The Municipal and Sanitary Committee of Abu appears to date from the year 1865. It then consisted of six members, all of whom were nominated by the Governor General's Agent to whom the proceedings were submitted for confirmation. The members of the Committee were the Superintending Engineer, Rajputana, who was the President; the Magistrate of Abu, who was both Secretary and Vice-President; the Residency Surgeon and Chief Medical Officer, Rajputana; the Executive Engineer, Abu division; the Officer Commanding the Station Hospital and the Commandant of the Sanitarium. The average annual receipts were about Rs. 11,000, derived mainly from conservancy cess, taxes on dogs, horses, ponies, and rikshaws and a contribution of Rs. 3,000 from His Highness the Maharao, Sirohi, while the sanitary expenditure was usually slightly less. The chief items of expenditure were sanitary arrangements, lighting, garden, water-supply, drainage, grant-in-aid to a vernacular school, etc.<sup>2</sup>

A special Act, known as Abu Municipal Law, was enacted by the Governor General in council, and was enforced

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1. Erskine, K. D.—Gazetteer of the Sirohi State, p. 278.

2. Erskine, K. D.—Gazetteer of the Sirohi State, 1910 p. 278-279.

in the same year for the administration of the Abu municipal area. The Municipal committee, then, consisted of both official and non-official nominated members. The work was supervised by the Agent to the Governor General, and the District Magistrate acted as ex officio Chairman and the Secretary. This law (Abu Municipal Law, 1919) was repealed in 1950 and was superseded by Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901. Thereafter, the Sub-Divisional Officer, Abu acted as ex-officio Chairman and the Committee consisted of eight nominated non-official members.

It is interesting to note that the elections were never introduced in the municipality and the members were invariably nominated ones. In 1958 the Committee consisting of nominated members was superseded and since then the S. D. O. Abu is working as the Administrator. The Executive Officer is appointed by the Directorate Local Bodies, Rajasthan.

The office establishment has five sections, namely, General Administration, Tax Collection, Water Supply, Sanitation, and Public Works Department. The strength of the sections is given below:—

1. *General Establishment*.—It has one Office Superintendent, one Development Assistant, one Accountant, one clerk and two class IV servants.

2. *Tax Collection*.—It has one Revenue Officer, one Tax Inspector, one clerk and one peon.

3. *Water Supply*.—It has one Filter Operator, one Fitter, one Oil-man, three *khalasis* and two *chowkidars*.

4. *Sanitation*.—It consists of one Sanitary Inspector, one Head *Jamadar*, two area *Jamadars*, one mechanic, one driver, twenty female and twenty-one male sweepers.

5. *Public Works Department*.—It includes one Overseer, one Supervisor, five gangmen, seven gardeners and six others.

Thus the total number of the employees, including the Executive Officers, is 86.

### Powers and Duties

In the beginning, there were no specific laws. In 1919 Abu Municipal Law was enforced in the area, which was replaced in 1950 by the Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901. Till 1919 the main functions of the municipalities were sanitation, lighting, water supply, drainage, construction of new roads, upkeep of old roads, contribution towards vaccination operations, grant-in-aid to vernacular schools etc.

With the enforcement of the new Act, the municipality got more powers and wider responsibilities. Now the municipality can impose tax on vehicles, entertainment, electricity, water supply and also on visitors. The main duties of the municipalities are to look after sanitation, public health, lighting, water supply and public utility construction. The details of work done by the municipalities are given below:—

1. *Sanitation.*—The Sanitary Inspector supervises the sanitation and street lighting arrangements, the head *jamadar* supervises the sanitary arrangements of the bazar area; and the area *jamadars* look after the sanitary arrangements of the municipal area excluding the bazar. The municipality has three conservancy trucks to remove refuse. No portion of the town has been declared as a slum-area. The municipality has constructed pukka uncovered drainage in the bazar area and the scheme to provide underground drainage is under the consideration of the Government. Besides 100 private flush latrines, there are 20 flush and 50 basement type of the latrines. The number of public urinals is 13. Anti-malaria measures have been taken by the municipality. Night soil is daily taken away in the trucks and for composition.

2. *Water.*—Before 1937, people met their water needs from the municipal and private wells. With the increase in the population of the town and influx of the visitors, the necessity of setting up water works was felt. In 1937, work to build Kodra-dam was started which was completed in the year 1942. The average depth of water in the dam is 35 feet and the capacity of storing water is 96 million gallons. Two slow sand filter tanks with a total capacity of two lakh gallons of water, and two reservoirs with a capacity of 30,000

gallons of water were constructed. Distribution mains and sub-mains, connecting all the parts of the town except Delwara area, were laid out. The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. four lakhs.

Increase in the local population, as well as in the number of visitors, necessitated further improvements in the water supply schemes which were made in 1953. A new pipe line, with a bigger diameter, was laid down between the dam and the filter house; one rapid gravity filter was constructed; and the staff quarters were provided near the filter house. These improvements raised the filtering capacity of water from 2 lakhs to 4 lakhs of gallons of water per day. This scheme was completed with an expenditure of 2 lakhs of rupees of which 50% was shared by the Government of Bombay.

Further improvements in the water supply system were felt necessary because of the considerable increase in the offices and the seasonal influx of visitors to the station. The second improvement scheme was therefore taken in hand with the help of loans from the government in the year 1960. Under this scheme additional mains and sub-mains of bigger diameter were laid and a reservoir near the Holiday Home with a capacity of 25,000 gallons of water was constructed to feed the localities situated on the higher places. The Government of Rajasthan has sanctioned Rs. 3,76,000 for the completion of the work. The work costing Rs. 2.72 lakhs was completed by the end of 1960-61 and the rest of the work is likely to be completed by 1962-63.

**3. Construction Work.**—The municipality constructs new roads and maintains old ones. Besides these, it maintains water-huts, wells, meat-markets, and the beautiful parks at Nakki Lake.

A colony has been constructed by the municipality near the Veterinary Hospital to provide residential facilities to its class III and IV employees. In the past, blankets and water-proof coats, too, were provided by the municipality to class IV employees.

A sum of Rs. 1,99,000 was spent for the general improvement of the town during the year 1952-56. 2000 trees were planted during the year 1954-56 to make the town still lovely and green. Latrines, urinals, bus-stands, and pukka approach

roads to the places of tourist interest, have been constructed and electric lights have been provided at such places. Boating facilities are provided to the tourists at the Nakki Lake. The municipality has undertaken the work of demarcation of 100 plots for building houses between the Pilgrime Road and the Cart Road. The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for providing civic amenities in this area.

4. *Public Health.*—The municipality made an annual grant of Rs. 2,400 to the Hospital run by the Government under the Public Health Programme. It also arranges D.D.T. spray and distributes medicines to the needy persons. For this purpose, Rs. 68,000 were spent during the year 1955-56.

Abu is an important tourist centre of the Rajasthan State, therefore, besides providing civic amenities like sanitation, water supply, public lighting, roads, medical facilities and other public utility constructions, the municipality has an additional responsibility of effecting general improvements in the town to make this place more attractive for the tourists.

#### Financial Position

In the past, the income of the municipality always slightly exceeded the expenditure. As has been stated earlier, the main sources of income were conservancy cess, taxes on dogs, horses, ponies and rikshaws, and a contribution of Rs. 3,000 from the His Highness Sirohi. This contribution was raised to Rs. 8,000 with effect from the year 1908<sup>1</sup>. As a result of an agreement on 6-10-1917 of the Darbar with the British Government, the subsidy given by the Darbar to the municipality was stopped in lieu of an area of 6 sq. miles in Abu leased to the British Government.

In course of time, new Acts came in force which empowered the municipality to levy more taxes to augment its income.

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<sup>1</sup> J. Frakine, K. D.—Gazetteer of Sirohi State, 1910, p. 279.



Income and expenditure of the municipality for the year 1960-61 is given in the following tables:—

Income for the year 1960-61

Sl. No.	Heads	Amount
1.	Passenger Tax	1,61,613.25
2.	Sanitary Tax	27,085.94
3.	Water Supply	34,332.63
4.	Vehicle and Animal Tax	1,241.00
5.	Cattle Pound	1,288.25
6.	Rent of Lands and Buildings	19,497.62
7.	Sale of Land	21,981.48
8.	Grant-in-aid	7,187.00
TOTAL		3,74,227.17

Expenditure for the year 1960-61

Sl. No.	Heads	Amount
1.	Conservancy and health arrangements	80,148.00
2.	Collection of Tax	17,832.39
3.	Development Works	62,475.15
4.	Public Works Department	14,555.58
5.	Gardens and Fruit Gardens	10,386.18
6.	General Administration	19,031.00
7.	Water Works	18,768.57
8.	Library	3,337.57
TOTAL		2,26,737.44

The following table shows the income and expenditure of the municipality for the selected years:—

Year	Income	Expenditure
1904-05	14,636.00	13,172.00
1927-28	31,258.00	27,607.00
1928-29	37,918.00	36,091.00
1929-30	46,167.00	37,207.00
1930-31	44,273.00	48,110.00
1955-56	1,91,333.00	1,61,716.00
1960-61	2,80,47,663.00	2,80,204.24

**Sirohi**

Sanitation and conservancy arrangements existed in Sirohi town since 1903 which were supervised by the local officials and financed by the Darbar. In the year 1903, Rs. 139 were spent for sanitation and conservancy arrangements. Through a *parvana* (official order) a municipality in the Sirohi town was established in November, 1921. In the beginning, there were 13 members excluding the President. Seven out of these were nominated to represent the important committees of the town, and the rest were ex-officio members. The District and the Sessions Judge was ex-officio Chairman. For the effective administration of the municipality, there were four sub-committees namely:—

1. Site Inspection Committee,
2. Light Committee,
3. Encroachment Committee, and
4. Rules Committee.

In the year 1940-41, efforts were made by the Darbar to introduce elective element in the constitution of the municipalities. For this purpose, the Sirohi State Municipal Act was drafted in 1941. This was circulated for inviting public opinion. To the surprise of the Darbar, however, the public opinion was not favourable to the provision relating to elections, as they thought its application would entail an extra burden of taxation on the public. The provision for introducing elective element had to be dropped as it was not thought expedient to impose a reform which was not relished by the public. Thus it appeared that the existing constitution of the municipalities was fully meeting the aspirations of the people, as was evident from the reluctance of the people to replace the system of caste-wise nominations by election on the basis of adults franchise. In 1948, with the enforcement of Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901, the elections were introduced in the municipality. 21 members were elected in 1948, who, in turn, elected their chairman and vice-chairman. In the year 1950, the Sirohi Municipality was renamed as Sirohi Municipal Board. On 23rd September, 1951 the Board was superseded and an Administrator was appointed on the 7th April, 1952 who continued to function till 13th August, 1953, when the elected body was constituted.

**Present Organisation**

The town has been divided into ten wards. One member is elected from each of the wards. Besides this, two members belonging to the Scheduled Castes are nominated by the Government and two female members are co-opted. Thus the total number of the members of the municipality becomes 14. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are elected by the members. The Executive Officer is appointed by the Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan. The office establishment has the following four sections :—

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. General Administration        | 1 Head Clerk<br>1 General Clerk<br>1 <i>Patwari</i><br>1 Accountant cum-Cashier and<br>2 Peons   |
| 2. Tax Collection                | 2 Tax Clerks and<br>4 Octroi Guards  |
| 3. Sanitation                    | 1 Sanitary Inspector<br>1 <i>Jamadar</i><br>2 Assistant <i>Jamadars</i><br>2 <i>Bhisties</i><br>23 Woman Sweepers and<br>21 Man Sweepers |
| 4. Water Works and Miscellaneous | 1 Mechanic<br>6 Pumpmen<br>1 Helper<br>1 Guard, Cattle-pound<br>1 Gardener<br>1 Municipal Gardener and<br>1 Truck Driver                 |

Thus, the total strength of the staff excluding the Executive Officer is 74.

**Powers and duties**

In the beginning, the municipality had powers to levy octroi, house tax, wheel tax on carts, tax for opening new windows and doors, and licence fee was levied on private motors. In the year 1941, the Darbar gave powers to the municipality under section 79 of the Bombay District Municipal Act for the recovery of taxes and punishment of the defaulters. At present, the municipality is empowered to levy octroi, house tax, cycle tax, water tax, entertainment tax, and hotel licence fee. The main duties of the municipality are sanitation and public health, lighting, water supply and public utility construction, details of which are given below:—

*Sanitation*—There is a municipal truck to collect and dispose of refuse of the town. More than 44 sweepers clean the streets daily. Phenol and other disinfectant powders are used in the public latrines and urinals. During the year 1960-61, 80 gallons of phenol was used. Foul water is removed from the town by means of *tankies*.

*Lighting*—The Board does not own a power house. The Rajasthan Electricity Board gives electricity connections for lighting the streets. The number of the street lights is 226; and Rs. 3,533 were spent for this purpose during the year 1960-61.

*Water Supply*—There are 35 public and 142 private water connections in the town. The Board has laid down a water-pipe in the Naya Bas and Krishnapuri, the length of which is 9,000 feet. The scheme was completed during the Second Plan period with a cost of Rs. 15,300, of which Rs. 6,179 were shared by the Social Welfare Department as subsidy. At present, there are four pumping sets in the city located at Kandokli Sarjabo, Khanakbo and Apeshwarji. The combined pumping capacity of these sets is 22,000 gallons of water per hour. To improve the water supply in the town, a scheme has been prepared and subsequently sanctioned by the Government.

It would cost Rs. ten lakhs on completion. Rs. 1,33,000 have been spent during the year 1960-61 and the scheme is likely to be completed by 1962-63.

*Construction Work*—During the year 1959-60, the municipality got one Reading Room and one Ayurvedic hospital building with two rooms constructed. A municipal godown with a cost of Rs. 2,500 was also constructed during the same year. In the year 1960-61, the Board constructed stone-pavements with side drains at Gandhiwada. To improve sanitary conditions in the town, the Board has constructed three public latrines and eight public urinals.

### Financial Position

As stated earlier, the Sirohi municipality was established in the year 1921. The municipality was empowered to levy sanitation and conservancy taxes. However, the income was meagre and the expenditure always exceeded it (income in the year 1934-35 was Rs. 2,032 whereas expenditure during the same year was Rs. 9,229). The deficit was met through the State treasury. Rajasthan Municipalities Act came in force in 1959 and thereafter, the income of the Municipality gradually increased. In the year 1958-59 and 1960-61 the income of the Municipality was Rs. 85,342 and 1,33,184 respectively and the expenditure during the same years, was Rs. 1,03,687 and 1,08,921 respectively. The following tables shows the income and expenditure figures in detail for the year 1960-61:

### Income for the year 1960-61

Sl. No.	Item	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Taxes .. .. .	49,279
2.	Fees, fines etc. .. .. .	3,366
3.	Income under other laws .. .. .	4,412
4.	Cattle pound .. .. .	1,688

1	2	3
5. Property and Rights .. ..		1,944
6. Water Works .. ..		12,579
7. Sale of Land .. ..		3,060
8. Grants and Loans .. ..		44,073
9. Securities .. ..		6,677
10. Old Arrears .. ..		599
11. Miscellaneous. .. ..		5,507
TOTAL ..		<u>1,33,184</u>

## Expenditure for the year 1960-61.

S. No.	Item	Amount
1.	General administration including tax realisation and other office expenses	16,411
2.	Social Welfare and Public Health	33,835
3.	Street Lighting	3,533
4.	Cattle Pound	750
5.	Water Works	15,944
6.	Public utilities (Garden, Library, functions and repairs etc.)	1,612
7.	General Loans	1,850
8.	Miscellaneous	<u>34,986</u>
TOTAL ..		<u>1,08,921</u>

**Abu Road**

Sanitation and conservancy arrangements existed in the town since 1891 supervised by the local officials and financed by the Darbar. At the turn of this century the sanitation and conservancy tax was levied on the residents. However, the income was always less than the expenditure and the deficit was met by the State treasury. In the year 1904, a nominated committee of the State officials was formed. It was assisted by the hospital assistant of the local dispensary. In 1905-6, it was being contemplated that the Abu Road Municipality be placed in the hands of a small committee, composed of the State officials and some leading men of the locality. The object of doing so was to make the municipality more popular, so that the public could take greater interest in its working. It was calculated that if this was done the sanitary arrangements would be more efficient.<sup>1</sup> However, it was only in 1923 that officially a municipality was established at Abu Road which had in all 16 members.<sup>2</sup> Non-official representatives were 9 and the District Magistrate was President. The municipality had four committees, namely, (1) Sanitation, (2) Lighting, (3) Public Works, and (4) General.

During the year 1940-41 the constitution of the Municipal Board was revised and liberalized. The old Board consisted of 14 members of whom the President and 4 members were officials and the rest non-officials; but all the members were nominated by the Darbar. In place of it a new Board was established with a majority of elected members. The new Board consisted of 25 members of whom 18 were elected. The elections were conducted ward-wise in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901, the franchise being extended to all house holders paying Municipal tax of any sort. The President was nominated from among the elected members<sup>3</sup>.

The Muslim population in Abu Road, though sizeable in percentage, could not secure adequate number of seats under system of ward-wise electors. They were not in

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1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1905-6, p. 7.

2. *Ibid*, 1922-23, p. 11.

3. *Ibid*, 1940-41, p. 78.

favour of wardwise elections and therefore, opposed it and instead demanded that elections should be held community-wise, each community being awarded seats in proportion to its population. This could not be done without making the constitution communal. The grievance was, however, redressed by the Darbar by awarding two of the nominated seats to their community in addition to the one secured by them in the elections to represent their interests in the Board. The new Board started functioning on the 1st January, 1941.<sup>1</sup>

The Abu Road area was merged in the Bombay State in the year 1950. On April 5, 1951, an administrator was appointed who worked till the 24th of June, 1956. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Mount Abu, also held charge of the municipality for an 'interim' period, i.e. before the administrator took over the charge. The Abu Road area was merged in Rajasthan on 1st of November, 1956 and the Board took over the charge on 24th of June, 1956. Elections were held in the year 1956, the term of which expired on June 1960. According to the present classification, the municipality falls under Class II category of the municipalities.

Currently, the Abu Road is divided into ten wards. One member is elected from each of the wards, one seat each is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Two women are co-opted. The municipality has five committees, namely, (1) Constitution, (2) Financial, (3) Rules and Bye-Rules, (4) Sanitary, and (5) Advisory.

#### Organisation

Besides the Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Directorate of Local Bodies, the staff of the municipality is as given below :—

1. *General Administration*—One Head Clerk, one Accountant and two peons.

2. *Tax Collection*—One Octroi Inspector, 14 *Moharrirs* and six peons.

3. *Water Works*—One Pump Operator and one Fitter.

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1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1940-41, p. 78-79.



4. *Sanitation and public health*—One Sanitary Inspector and one *Jamadar* (to supervise the work of sweepers), 25 male sweepers and 23 female sweepers.

5. *Construction*—The public utility construction is carried out by an overseer and one *mistry*.

#### **Powers and duties**

At the turn of the century, the municipality (though an officially nominated body then) was empowered to levy sanitation and conservancy taxes. Later on it was also given power to levy house tax. However, it was in 1923 only that the constitution of the municipality was liberalised to associate non-official persons, and octroi was levied on the articles which were brought in the city. In the year 1941-42, the municipality under section 79 of the Bombay Municipal Act of 1901, got further powers to realize tax and to punish those who tried tax evasion. The Rajasthan Municipalities Act of 1959 came in force the same year. Now besides octroi, the municipality can impose tax on vehicles, entertainment, electricity and water supply. The main duties of the municipality are sanitation, public health, lighting, water supply and public utility constructions, details of which are given below:

*Sanitation*—Besides a diesel tractor, two trolleys and 13 carts, the municipality has three ordinary carts and seven hand barrows to carry refuse out of the town. Refuse so collected is turned into compost and sold out which gives an income of Rs. 3,000 per annum. Public latrines and urinals are treated with phenol. During the year 1960-61, 150 gallons of phenol was used for which Rs. 600 were spent. Similarly, Rs. 100 were spent during the same year to disinfect drinking water with potassium permagnate and the bleaching powder.

*Lighting*—There is a power house at Abu Road owned by the Abu Road Electricity and Industries Co. Ltd., Abu Road. It was installed in the year 1945. The municipality is concerned with only the street lighting on which during the year 1960-61 a sum of Rs. 8,294 was spent.

*Water supply*—The water requirements are mainly met from a pumping well, constructed in Gandhinagar, in the year 1953, at a cost of about Rs. 50,000. It has a capacity of about 72,000 gallons of water per day. For the distribution of water in the city, a pipe line, 10,000 r.f.t. in length has been laid. For further improvements in the water supply of the town, a scheme has been prepared and sanctioned by the government. It would cost Rs. 7,01,000 on completion by 1962-63. Out of this Rs. 85,000 were spent by 1960-61. Now the total number of the private and public water connections, in the town, is 222 including 18 private connections. An amount of Rs. 8,004 was spent for water supply arrangements in the town, during the year 1960-61. Besides this, there are 50 wells in the town, from where water needs of the town are partially met.

*Construction work*—Even before the establishment of the municipality the State Government took keen interest in the construction of the public utility works. A sum of Rs. 2,600 was spent by the Darbar as early as 1897 to improve the drainage of the town. Figures for such constructions in the successive years, except 1940-41 and 1944-45 in which Rs. 329 and Rs. 2,557 respectively were spent, are not available. During the First and Second Five Year Plan periods, Rs. 68,215 and Rs. 95,190 respectively, were spent for construction and repairs of the roads. A library hall with a cost of Rs. 7,500 was constructed during the Second Plan period.

#### **Financial Position**

In the beginning, the official body assisted by the hospital assistant, in looking after the sanitation and conservancy arrangements, met its expenditure from conservancy cess and the State funds. In 1903-04, the total income amounted to Rs. 951.19 while the expenditure was Rs. 1,077. In 1938 Abu Road tax was levied at the rate of two pice per maund on the import and export of grains. This raised the income of the municipality sufficiently. The income during the year 1938-39, was Rs. 8,855. Thus the municipality became self-sufficient. Total income for the year 1960-61 was Rs. 2,88,822. Ostroli is the

chief source of income. It earned Rs. 1,41,810 to the municipality in the year 1960-61. The following table shows the important items of income during the year 1960-61:—

Sl. No.	Item	Amount
		Rs.
1.	Octroi .. .. .	1,41,810
2.	Sale of land .. .. .	19,890
3.	Grants and loans .. .. .	26,620
4.	Cattle-pound .. .. .	1,165
5.	Licence fees and application of other Acts..	1,009

Similarly, the expenditure of the municipality for the year 1960-61 was Rs. 3,06,316. The following table shows the amount spent on some of the important things:—

#### Expenditure for the year 1960-61

Sl. No.	Item	Amount
		Rs.
1.	General Administration .. .. .	21,959
2.	Taxation staff .. .. .	24,477
3.	Public Health and Sanitation .. .. .	53,952
4.	Water Supply .. .. .	8,004
5.	Education .. .. .	24,484
6.	Development works .. .. .	62,261

The following statement shows the income and expenditure figures of the municipality in selected periods over the past 58 years:—

Year				Income	Expendi- ture
1903-04	..	..	..	951	1,077
1910-11	..	..	..	1,989	1,388
1920-21	..	..	..	1,620	1,883
1935-36	..	..	..	6,057	6,106
1938-39	..	..	..	8,810	8,525
1940-41	..	..	..	9,283	7,134
1953-54	..	..	..	1,76,438	1,83,784
1960-61	..	..	..	2,88,222	3,06,316

#### **Fheoganj**

Sanitary and conservancy arrangements, supervised by the Tahsildar, existed in the town since 1891-92. In 1904-05, a Committee consisting of the local officials, came into being. This arrangement continued till 1953 when the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act of 1951 came into force and elections were held accordingly. New elections were held during the year 1956-57 to elect 8 members. Two members were nominated. The Rajasthan Municipalities Act of 1959 was applied in 1959 and since then the municipality has been working according to the provisions of this Act.

#### **Organisation**

Currently (1960-61), the number of the elected members is 10. The town is divided into 9 wards: eight single and one double-member. The double-member ward, besides the general candidate, elects one candidate belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Two women members have been

co-opted. Thus, the total number of members in the municipality is 12. The Executive Officer is appointed by the Directorate of Local Bodies and is assisted by one Accountant, two L. D. Cs. and three tax *moharrirs*.

There are 23 sweepers (18 male and 5 female) for the sanitary work of the town and one *Jamadar* to supervise the work of the sweepers.

### Sanitation

The municipality maintains two buffalo carts to remove refuse of the city. About 16-20 maunds of refuse is removed every day and composted. Later, it is sold as manure to the farmers. It brings an annual income of Rs. 200-300 to the municipality. Public latrines and urinals are treated with phenol. About 4 gallons of phenol is used every month.

Income and expenditure figures of the municipality for the year 1960-61 are given below:—

### Income for the year 1961

				Rs.
1.	Opening balance	..	..	500
2.	Tax	..	..	1,800
3.	Bye-laws, licence etc.	..	..	4,350
4.	Municipal property	..	..	10,150
5.	Other Acts	..	..	3,700
6.	Penalties	..	..	500
7.	Miscellaneous	..	..	2,930
8.	Sale of land	..	..	20,000
			TOTAL ..	<u>43,930</u>

**Expenditure for the year 1961**

	Rs.
1. General Administration .. ..	5,252
2. Tax collection .. ..	2,234
3. Public utility and public health .. ..	10,347
4. Lighting expenditure .. ..	3,180
5. Water Supply .. ..	600
6. Cattle Pound .. ..	300
7. Park .. ..	1,270
8. Celebrations .. ..	50
9. Repairs .. ..	450
10. Miscellaneous .. ..	1,450
11. Constructions and development works ..	42,140
12. Sale of property .. ..	500
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>67,763</b>

**Pindwara Municipality**

The Pindwara town was granted a municipality on the 29th of July, 1941 to look after the sanitation of the town.<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, there were only five members: Tahsildar as President, Forest Range Officer as Vice-President, one *Patel* of Rajputs, one *Patel* of Ganchis and one member selected from the Advisory Committee.<sup>2</sup> There are four sweepers for cleaning the streets, two sweepers for removing rubbish, one *Jamadar*, and two men for lighting street lamps.<sup>3</sup>

To begin the work, the State Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 570/- and provided preliminary equipments, i. e. foul water carts, lamps etc. The recurring expenditure of the municipality was met by raising funds by levy of octroi on imports into Pindwara. This was suggested by the majority of the people and approved by the council.<sup>4</sup>

In the year 1948, the town was divided into six wards from which 11 members were elected. The term of the municipality expired in 1951 and the new elections were

1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1940-41, p. 79.

2. *Ibid*, p. 79-80

3. *Ibid*, p. 80.

4. *Ibid*, p. 80.

held in 1953 according to the Municipalities Act of 1951. For the elections of 1953, the town was divided into eight wards and one member was elected from each of the wards. One member belonging to the Scheduled Castes was nominated by the Government. Now the municipality is covered by the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act of 1959.

### Organisation

The Executive Officer is appointed by the Directorate of Local Bodies. The office establishment has three sections, namely; General Administration, Tax Collection, and Sanitary and Public Health. The details of these sections are given below:—

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. General Administration       | One U. D. C., one L. D. C. and six peons.  |
| 2. Tax Collections              | Four <i>moharrirs</i> and six peons.   |
| 3. Sanitation and Public Health | One <i>Jamadar</i> , 14 sweepers, two cart drivers, one tractor driver, one overseer, one <i>patwari</i> , one cattle-pound in-charge and one gardner. |

The main duties of the municipality, as in other places, are sanitation and public health, lighting, water supply and public utility construction. Details are given below:—

**Sanitation**—There is a diesel tractor with a trolley to collect refuse of the town. The number of the sweepers is 14(10 males and 4 females). Rs. 782.68 nP. were spent for the construction of 400 ft. sewers. All the roads and streets are cleaned every third day. The bazar road is cleaned twice a day.

**Lighting**—There are 18 gas lamps and 61 kerosene lanterns. Daily average expenditure of kerosene lamps is 11 nP. per day per lamp. The expenditure of the gas lamps comes to 71 nP. per day per lamp.

**Water**—Water requirements of the town are mainly met from the two municipal wells which have been fitted with diesel pumping sets. Rs. 2,029 were spent for this purpose during the year 1960-61. The municipality has not levied water tax and therefore, no question of income from this source arises. The number of the taps is 50 in the town.

**Construction work**—The municipality has constructed two latrines with 26 seats. A well, during the year 1958-59, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 5,000/-. The municipality maintains two furlongs of metalled road. A pipe line from the park to the hospital was laid down at a cost of Rs. 15,630/- in the year 1959-60. A water reservoir has also been constructed. During the year 1960-61, a well for the Harijans was constructed. The Social Welfare Department made a contribution of Rs. 2,000/- for the purpose. The municipality also maintains a *Dharamshala* and a public park.

#### Financial Position

The municipality has always been a self-sufficient one. In the beginning it raised funds by levy of octroi on imports to Pirdwara. Gradually, it got more powers to levy other taxes also. The following table shows the income and expenditure figures for a few years:—

Sl. No.	Year	Income Rs.	Expenditure Rs.
1.	1941-42	1,250.00	1,053.00
2.	1942-43	827.00	940.00
3.	1943-44	Just sufficient to meet expenditure.	830.00
4.	1944-45	1,643.00	674.00
5.	1956-57	29,227.64	15,152.42
6.	1960-61	66,471.00	53,590.00

The following table shows the important items of income for the year 1960-61:—

Sl. No.	Item	Amount (in rupees)
1.	Grant-in-aid	22,872.00
2.	Sale of land	10,528.55
3.	Octroi	15,649.00
4.	Licence fee	523.00
5.	Cattle pound	1,011.00
6.	Penalties and fines	25.00
TOTAL.		50,608.55



Main items of expenditure are given in the following table:—

Sl. No.	Item	Expenditure (in rupees)
1.	General administration and tax collection	8,700.00
2.	Sanitation and Public Health	6,327.81
3.	Lighting arrangements.	2,029.00
4.	Maintenance of municipal gardens	1,313.00
5.	Water arrangements	402.00
TOTAL ..		18,771.81

### PANCHAYATS

The history of the village panchayats has been given in the beginning of the chapter.

There were 87 panchayats in existence when the Panchayati Raj was introduced in the district. Population in those panchayats varied from 4,000 to 8,000 and they were carved out by grouping of villages. According to the decision of the Government the panchayats were redelimited and made co-terminus with the smallest unit of revenue administration i.e. *putwar circle*. 133 panchayats in the district were formed in December, 1960 each consisting of a village or a group of villages with a population between 1,500 and 2,000 people. There are thirty-one village and 103 multi-village panchayats in the district. Number of panchas in each panchayat varies between 8 and 15 according to population. The total number of the panchas, excluding the co-opted members, in the district, is 1150.

Elections to the panchayats are held every third year on the basis of adult franchise and by secret ballot. The area of the panchayats is divided into wards equal in number to the number of the panchas fixed for the panchayat.

**Sarpanch**—Chairman of the Panchayat, called Sarpanch, is elected by the entire electorate of the panchayat. He functions as chief Executive Authority and convenes and presides over the meetings. He arranges and supervises the work in the panchayat area.

**Secretary**—The panchayat appoints a Secretary to attend to the ministerial work.

### Functions of Panchayats

Their functions are municipal, administrative and developmental. It plans for increased production of the individual families and organizes the community for promotion of health, safety, education, comfort, convenience, social, economic and cultural well being of the people of the area.

### Gram Sabha Meeting

The panchayats have to convene at least twice a year, the meeting of the gram sabha, which consists of the entire electorate of the panchayat circle to explain the programmes, plans and estimates of the works to be undertaken. The views of the people are ascertained and subsequent changes are made. The meetings are held in the month of May and October. Besides explaining the new plans, the progress of the work done in the preceding 6 months is reviewed and reasons for not completing the work, are also explained at the meeting.

### Financial Resources

The Panchayats get grant-in aid of 20 paise per head of the population from the Government with a ceiling of Rs. 400. If the Sarpanch and 80% of the panchas are elected unanimously, an additional grant of 25 paise per head of the total population of the area is given for the full term of its life. The Panchayats can levy octroi, vehicle and pilgrim tax, and tax on building and commercial crops—other sources of income are fees (for grazing, use of land, services proceed from sale of *abadi* lands etc.) and fines (cattle-pound, disregard of the administrative orders etc.).

The Panchayat Samitiwise distribution of the Panchayats is as below:—

#### 1. Abu Road

1. Awal, 2. Chanar, 3. Tartoli, 4. Siava, 5. Santpur, 6. Deldar, 7. Ood, 8. Morthal, 9. Nichala Gadhi, 10. Paba, 11. Oria, 12. Utraj, 13. Girwar, 14. Chandela, 15. Akra, 16. Amthala, 17. Kivarli, 18. Bhaval, 19. Surpaga, 20. Jambudi and 21. Moongthala.

**2. Sheoganj**

1. Mandar, 2. Jhadoli, 3. Lahas, 4. Naradara, 5. Oda, 6. Andor, 7. Morli, 8. Paldi, 9. Wagasin, 10. Arathwara, 11. Utham, 12. Sibagaon, 13. Chuli, 14. Badgoan, 15. Dhruwana, 16. Posaliya, 17. Jethia, 18. Jetpura, 19. Koserpura, 20. Wan, 21. Jogapura, 22. Alpa and 23. Rewana.

**3. Reodar**

1. Udwardiya, 2. Sirohi, 3. Pamera, 4. Nagavi, 5. Dhan, 6. Positra, 7. Gulabganj, 8. Anadra, 9. Dabani, 10. Hapil, 11. Dak, 12. Lunel, 13. Dhavali, 14. Marol, 15. Datani, 16. Reodar, 17. Jolpur, 18. Jirawal, 19. Dantari, 20. Nebaj, 21. Raipur, 22. Jetawara, 23. Barman, 24. Magriwara, 25. Pithapura, 26. Sorda, 27. Manda, 28. Vasan, 29. Merugarh, 30. Mitan and 31. Padar.

**4. Pindwara**

1. Amli, 2. Shivera, 3. Warli, 4. Moras, 5. Naya Sanwara, 6. Vinwara, 7. Kohra, 8. Janapura, 9. Pasua, 10. Dungri, 11. Telpura, 12. Nadia, 13. Jaroli, 14. Ajari, 15. Basantgarh, 16. Blawari, 17. Dhanari, 18. Mandwara, 19. Nitoda, 20. Kachholi, 21. Bharja, 22. Achupura, 23. Bhimana, 24. Roheda, 25. Bhyla, 26. Watera, 27. Wasa, 28. Waloria and 29. Nandwara.

**5. Sirohi**

1. Balda, 2. Barlut, 3. Ood, 4. Gol, 5. Goyely, 6. Bhut Gaon, 7. Manora, 8. Jawal, 9. Varda, 10. Mandawariya, 11. Nawara, 12. Mohabatnagar, 13. Fungani, 14. Tawari, 15. Media, 16. Sildar, 17. Ambelari, 18. Sonpur, 19. Jalan, 20. Sartara, 21. Krishanganj, 22. Velangri, 23. Dhanta, 24. Khambal, 25. Rampura, 26. Padiv, 27. Doduwa, 28. Kalandri and 29. Nandwaria.

The office of the Zila Parishad is at the district headquarters.

**Panchayat Samiti**

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Balvant Rai Mehta Study Team, the Government of Rajasthan decided to introduce Democratic Decentralisation (Panchayati

Raj) in the State. On 2nd October, 1959, the Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act of 1959 was passed by the State Legislature and on the 9th of September, 1959, it received the assent of the President. Accordingly, the Panchayat Samitis at Block and Zila Parishad, at the district level were constituted and began functioning as soon as the scheme was inaugurated at Nagaur on 2nd October, 1959 by the late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Details about the constitution and functions etc. of these institutions are given below:—

#### **Members of the Panchayat Samiti**

All the Sarpanchas of the panchayats and the Krishi Nipun declared by the Zila Parishad, are the Ex-officio members of the Panchayat Samiti. Besides two persons having experience in public life and administration, one representative from among the Managing Committee of the Co-operative Societies and one of the Gramdan village if any, are co-opted. Other co-opted members include two women, two persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (the number of these three types of members will be two if none is Ex-officio member, or one in case there is one Ex-officio member. The representative of the Scheduled Tribes will be co-opted only when the Scheduled Tribe population of the district exceeds 5% of the total population.)

Members of the Panchayat Samiti are co-opted by ex-officio members through secret ballot.

The members elect, from amongst themselves, a Pradhan who acts as the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. The term of the office of the Panchayat Samiti is three years.

#### **Functions of Panchayat Samiti**

- Panchayat Samiti is solely responsible for the development work in its area. There are some obligatory and other discretionary functions of the Panchayat Samitis. They are, however, expected to attend to and perform all the functions to meet the needs of the people of the Samiti.

## LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The Democratic Decentralisation stresses the need of collective work. Therefore, formation of atleast three Standing Committees, namely, Committee for Production Programme, Committee for Social Services and Social Amenities Programmes, and Committee for Finance, Taxes and Administration, has been made statutorily obligatory. The Panchayat Samitis, however, are at liberty to have more than three Standing Committees.

The Panchayat Samiti frames its budget and sends it to the District Development Officer who sends it to the Zila Parishad with his comments, if any. The Zila Parishad either passes the budget or returns it with suggestions to modify the budget. The Panchayat Samiti reconsiders the budget in view of the suggestions. However, it is not obligatory for the Panchayat Samiti to accept the modifications suggested.

### Financial Resources

Besides primary education cess and cess on rent for the use of occupation of agricultural land, the Panchayat Samitis can levy tax on fairs, trades, industries and entertainment. Other source of income are grants for liabilities transferred by the various departments, annual *ad hoc* grants 25 paise per head of the population of the area in lieu of the share of land and the loans advanced by the State. The Panchayat Samiti can also raise loans.

### Pradhan

He is the elected head of the Panchayat Samiti and exercises supervision over the Panchayat Samiti. He convenes and presides over the meetings.

### Staff

Vikas Adhikari is the chief Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti. He exercises administrative control over the entire staff of the Panchayat Samiti including the Extension Officers.

Gram Sevak and School teachers are the functionaries at the village level. Gram Sevak is multi-purpose extension agent of different Development Departments at the village level.

Besides these, Gram Sevikas, Stockmen, Compounders, Drivers and Mistries are also recruited to the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad Service. There are five Panchayat Samitis in the district and a brief account of them is given below:—

( Rs. in '000 )

				Panchayat Samiti	
				Pindwara	Abu
1. Category.	..	..	2nd Stage	2nd Stage	
2. Population ('000)	..	..	56	36	
3. Area (Sq. miles)	..	..	428	304	
4. Villages.	..	..	99	89	
5. Panchayats.	..	..	29	21	
6. Members.	..	..	36	27	
7. Standing Committees	..	..	..	4	
8. Posts-					
1. E.Os.	..	..	10	13	
2. (a) U.D.C.	..	..	3	3	
(b) L.D.C.	..	..	6	7	
(c) Class IV	..	..	10	9	
9. Amount sanctioned (1961-62)					
(a) C.D. Budget:					
1. Grant	..	..	73	98	
2. Loan	..	..	12	30	
(b) Transferred Schemes:					
1. Grant	..	..	174	118	
2. Loan	..	..	34	17	
(c) Free Fund	..	..	21	15	
(d) L.D. Works	..	..	..	..	
10. Taxes imposed	..	..	Nil	Nil	
11. (a) Actual income in 1960-61	..	..	4	1	
(b) P. participation, in 1960-61	..	..	13	8	
(c) Estimated income from taxes	..	..	Nil	10	

## LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

		(Rs. in '000)	
		Panchayat	Samiti
		Pindwara	Abu
12.	Expenditure in 1960-61	.. 547	478
13.	Balance on 1-4-61	.. 111	196
14.	General:		
1.	Tempo of work	.. .. increasing	increasing
2.	Potential of the block.	.. 1 Minor Irrigation	Minor Irrigation.
		2. Cattle	
3.	Important problems.		

District Sirahi		(Rs. in '000)		
		Panchayat Samiti		
		Sirahi Sheoganj Reodar		
1.	Category.	.. .. 1st stage	1st stage	Shadow
2.	Population ('000)	.. 56	45	57
3.	Area (sq. miles)	.. 453	345	409
4.	Villages	.. 84	69	116
5.	Panchayats	.. 29	23	31
6.	Members	.. 38	31	40
7.	Standing Committees	.. 4	3	4
8.	Posts:			
1.	E.O.s.	.. 13	9	3
2.	U.D.C.	.. 3	2	1
3.	L.D.C.	.. 8	4	3
4.	Class IV	.. 9	7	9
9.	Amount sanctioned (1961-62)			
	(a) C. D. Budget:			
1.	Grant	.. 98	93	..
2.	Loan	.. 30	30	..

Panchayat Samiti				
Sirohi Sheoganj Reodar				
(b) Transferred Schemes :				
(1) Grant .. ..	185	127	188	
(2) Loan .. ..	44	36	66	
(c) Fe Furd .. ..	21	18	21	
(d) L. D. Works .. ..	..	..	40	
10. Taxes imposed	Profes- sion	Profes- sion	Cess on L.R.	
11. Actual income in 1960-61.	13	6	4	
(b) P. Participation in 1960-61	106	12	42	
(c) Estimated income from taxes .. ..	14	10	15	
12. Expenditure in 1960-61 ..	405	302	215	
13. Balance on 1-4-61 ..	242	138	99	
14. General :				
1. Tempo of work ..	Increa- sing.	Increa- sing.	Increa- sing	
2. Potential of the block	1. Minor irrigation	1. Minor irrigation	1. Minor irrigation	
	2. Cattle	2. Cattle	2. Cattle	
3. Important problems ..	1. Shortage of quality seeds.			
	2. Boaring and Machine.			
	3. Marketing of Milk, Ghee & Fruit.			

**Zila Parishad**

The Zila Parishad is composed of the following categories of persons:—

**(a) Ex-Officio Members**

- (1) All Pradhans of the Panchayat Samitis of the district.



## LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

- (2) Member(s) of the Parliament.
- (3) Member(s) of the Legislative Assembly.
- (4) President of the Central Co-operative Bank in the District.
- (5) Collector of the District (non-voting member).

**(b) By Co-option**

- (i) Two persons of experience in administration, public life or rural development.
- (ii) Two women, if no woman is already a member of the Zila Parishad or if one is such a member under (a) above.
- (iii) One member from the Scheduled Castes if no such person is member under (a) above, and if the population of Scheduled Tribes is more than 5% of the population of the district.
- (iv) Two persons of experience in administration, public life or rural development.

Members of the Zila Parishad are co-opted by ex-officio members by secret ballot. The members of the Zila Parishad, from amongst themselves, elect the Pramukh who presides over the body. The term of the Zila Parishad, like the Panchayat Samiti, is three years. The Zila Parishad has a Secretary who is an officer of the State Service.

The Zila Parishad does not have executive functions. Its main role is to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the various Panchayat Samitis of the district and to maintain liaison between the Government and the Panchayat Samitis.

**Financial resources**

The Zila Parishad has its own fund which consists of the money received from the State for meeting its establishment charges, allowances to its members and donations or contributions received from the Panchayat Samiti or from the Public in any form. It has no field for taxation assigned to it. The Zila Parishad submits its budget to the State Government for approval.

**Nyaya Panchayat**

Under the former Act, Panchayats were given certain judicial powers. These powers have been taken away so that the local bodies may devote themselves exclusively to development work. However, for each group of four to seven Panchayat Circles, a Nyaya (Judicial) Panchayat has been set up. These Nyaya Panchayats have been empowered to try certain minor criminal offences and to impose fines not exceeding Rs. 50/-. In the event of non-payment, the matter is brought to the notice of the S.D.M. In civil cases, these Panchayats have jurisdiction for the trial of certain suits not exceeding Rs. 250/- in value. In cases where there is difficulty in executing a decree, report is sent to the munsif or civil judge having jurisdiction for necessary action.

Nyaya Panchayats were formed in this district in December, 1960, and the first elections were completed in January, 1961. The set-up is as follows :—

**Panchayat Samiti. Sirohi**

<i>Nyaya Panchayat.</i>	<i>Panchayat Circles Covered.</i>
1. Mermandwada	1. Mermandwada, 2. Sildar, 3. Sanpur, 4. Mandia, 5. Aamlari, 6. Jaila
2. Kalandri	1. Kalandri, 2. Faguni, 3. Tanwari, 4. Doduwa, 5. Nawara, 6. Mohabbat- nagar.
3. Sirohi	1. Goyali, 2. Rampura, 3. Padiva, 4. Oad, 5. Walda.
4. Barloot	1. Jawal, 2. Barloot, 3. Bhutgaon, 4. Mandwaria, 5. Manora, 6. Warada, 7. Gole.
5. Valangari	1. Valangari, 2. Krishnaganj, 3. Dhanta, 4. Sartara, 5. Khambala.

## LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

## Panchayat Samiti, Sheogani

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1. Laas     | 1. Manadar, 2. Jhadoli, 3. Laas, 4. Oda,<br>5. Naradara.   |
| 2. Jogapura | 1. Jogapura, 2. Joyala, 3. Wana,<br>4. Aalpa, 5. Rewada.   |
| 3. Paladi   | 1. Paladi, 2. Morali, 3. Andore,<br>4. Bagsm, 5. Sibagaon. |
| 4. Posalia  | 1. Posalia, 2. Aratlawada, 3. Uthaman,<br>4. Chooli.       |
| 5. Badagaon | 1. Badagaon, 2. Kesarpura, 3. Jait-<br>pura, 4. Dhurwana.  |

## Panchayat Samiti, Reodar

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. Sirodi    | 1. Udawana, 2. Sirodi, 3. Pamera,<br>4. Nagani, 5. Gulabganj, 6. Positra. |
| 2. Anadara   | 1. Anadara, 2. Dabani, 3. Hathi,<br>4. Daak, 5. Dhawal.                   |
| 3. Reodar    | 1. Reodar, 2. Lunol, 3. Marole,<br>4. Datani, 5. Wasan, 6. Bherugarh.     |
| 4. Mandar    | 1. Mandar, 2. Magriwas, 3. Waman,<br>4. Bhatana, 5. Padar.                |
| 5. Dantrai   | 1. Dantrai, 2. Dhau, 3. Jolepur,<br>4. Jirawal, 5. Niwaj.                 |
| 6. Jaitawada | 1. Ratipur, 2. Sorda, 3. Jaitawada,<br>4. Pithapura.                      |

## Panchayat Samiti, Pindwara

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1. Ajari  | 1. Aamali, 2. Moras, 3. Warali,<br>4. Basantgarh, 5. Ajari.                          |
| 2. Rohida | 1. Rohida, 2. Wasa, 3. Waloria,<br>4. Mandwada, 5. Bhoola, 6. Watera,<br>7. Bhimana. |

3. Kojara 1. Kojara, 2. Telpura, 3. Nandia,  
4. Peshua, 5. Dogar, 6. Janapur.
4. Bhawari 1. Bhawari, 2. Mandwadaker  
3. Nitoda, 4. Achpura, 5. Kaccholi.  
6. Bharja, 7. Dhonari.
5. Jhadoli 1. Jhadoli, 2. Virwada, 3. Sivera,  
4. Naya Sanwada.

**Panchayat Samiti, Abu Road**

1. Girwar 1. Girwar, 2. Chandela, 3. Chanar,  
4. Aawal, 5. Moongthala.
2. Aakara 1. Aamtalala, 2. Morthala, 3. Aakara,  
4. Taitoli, 5. Oria, 6. Utaraj.
3. Deldar 1. Nichalgarh, 2. Deldar, 3. Paba,  
4. Oda, 5. Kiwarli.
4. Siyawa 1. Jamboori, 2. Surapala, 3. Siyawa,  
4. Santpur, 5. Mawal.

The following table gives an idea about the number of the cases tried by some few of the Nyaya Panchayats. The information has been collected from the inspection reports compiled in the S.D O. Sirohi's office :—

S. Nyaya Panchayat No.		Date of inspection	Insti- tuted	Cases		
				Deci- ded	Un- decided	Trans- ferred
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Badagoan	10-7-61	4	2	2	..
2.	Jogapura	11-7-61	2	..	3	1
3.	Posalia	12-7-61	1	..	1	..
4.	Paldi	12-7-61	2	2	..	1
5.	Barloot	19-7-61	5	4	1	..

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Memandwada	19-7-61	..	..	..	..
7.	Kolandri	20-7-61	..	..	..	..
8.	Valangari	24-7-61	..	2	2	4
9.	Reodar	24-7-61	16	14	10	8
10.	Dantrai	26-7-61	46	28	18	..
11.	Anadara	26-7-61	13	7	6	..
12.	Sirodi	26-7-61	12	8	4	..
13.	Jaitawada	17-8-61	21	16	5	..
14.	Mandar	29-10-61	28	12	16	..
15.	Laas	19-12-61	42	12	30	..

## CHAPTER XV EDUCATION AND CULTURE

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

No written account of the educational facilities or craft training methods in the past is available but the temples at Delhi and Sarnath and the remains of Chandra-vati—the metropolis of Rajasthan in 14th century, indicate the high standard attained by local architects and craftsmen. Abu was probably a centre of *Islamic* studies. Dr. Das-ha-ratha Shastri mentions Abu as a *Saka-pur* (Early Chauhan Dynasties p. 190). Chandra-vati seems to have been a centre of training in these arts. The craftsmanship in swords and knives was famous right upto the beginning of the present century. The skill in using bows and arrows by the Bhils and Garasias are still well known. In the early 15th century, Chandra-vati ceased to be the capital of Deoras and the best specimens of its architecture and most of its skilled craftsmen were carried off to Ahmedabad.

Indigenous institutions, known as *Panchshalas*, which existed in almost every village, seem to have waned in popularity by the latter half of nineteenth century. The Administration Report of Sirohi State 1890-91, states "There are old *gurdwaras* at Mandar (Mandla) and other places, but generally the people of this country have no liking for any good education. The *Mahajans* learn little Hindi and go to other country for trading while the Rajputs pick up little *maths* and engage themselves either in *Raj Seebandhi* or in looking after their holdings."

### Western Education

The first school on modern lines was founded by Sir Henry Lawrence in 1854 (Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana from 1853 to 1857) "to provide a refuge in a

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1. Police Force of the State.

good climate for the orphans and other children of soldiers, and there to give them a plain, practical education adapted to the conditions of the inmates and to train them to become useful members of society." The Lawrence School was a co-educational institution providing accommodation for forty-eight boys and thirty-two girls and was maintained partly by Imperial funds and partly from private subscriptions, fees and interest on endowments. The management committee consisted of the Governor-General's Agent, the Resident, Western Rajputana State; the Superintending Engineer, Rajputana; the Chaplain of Abu; the Commandant of the Sanatorium; the Officer Commanding the Station Hospital and the Magistrate of Abu. The Inspector of European Schools, Bombay and Central India, used to visit the school periodically. The staff consisted of a head-master, a school-mistress and three assistant masters. Ordinarily, children were admitted between the ages of five and twelve and the age of withdrawal was sixteen. About the year 1890, a cadet company was organised in the school to enable the students to get some training in weapons and as soon as a student reached a certain age, he was enrolled in the company. About the year 1904, instruction in type-writing and shorthand was also started. Later, higher mathematics was included in the syllabus to enable the students to get admission in the Technical Engineering College at Roorkee. All the boys were taught signalling and the girls were exercised in calisthenics and were encouraged to play lawn tennis and other out-door games. The school closed down on 30-12-1950.

- 
1. Children of pure European parentage used to get precedence over those of mixed parentage in the matter of admission in the school. Donors of money were authorised to nominate the children for admission in proportion to their donations. The fees realised from the parents (who were serving soldiers and ex-soldiers) of the children ranged in proportion to their ranks in the army. The pensioned soldiers whose allowance was not equal to that of a private (soldier) or Corporal, were not required to make any payment but those who drew greater salary, paid according to the rules framed by the Management Committee. Parents or guardians wishing to remove their children from the school were required to express their intention in writing at least 14 days in advance. At the time of admission, one of the important documents to be produced was a certificate of the child's baptism. The school building including the out offices, was built at the cost of Rs. 10,000. Information supplied by National Archives of India, New Delhi, Extracts from Foreign Department Political Branch, 31 Dec., 1858 O.C.No. 3137 & K.W.

An anglo-vernacular school started at Sirohi by the Darbar in 1879 was later raised to middle standard. The subjects taught were Hindi, Urdu and English. This Darbar School was transferred to a new building in 1915 and was re-named as the Colvin High School. Another school was opened by Darbar at Rohera with a single teacher.

In 1887, a high school was opened at Mt. Abu by the Pomlay-Parda and Central India Railway Company at a cost of about a lakh and a half rupees. This institution came under private management in 1903 and received grants-in-aid from the Government. In 1906-07 the staff consisted of a Principal, five qualified teachers and two matrons. Teaching was according to the syllabus of United Provinces Code. Special courses of one year's duration were also provided in mechanical or office work for the boys and in domestic arts for the girls.

A primary vernacular school opened at Mt. Abu in 1888, was kept up through private subscriptions and municipal grant-in-aid. In the closing years of the century, two more schools were opened at Abu Road—a primary school for European and Anglo-Indian children and an anglo-vernacular high school (opened in 1885). The primary school was maintained entirely by the then Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway authorities but for the high school, they received aid from the Government. The syllabus of the high school was laid down by Allahabad University.

In 1906-07, there were only seven educational institutions run on modern lines. These were:—

Name of School	No. of Students		Maintained by
	Boys	Girls	
1	2	3	4
High School Mt. Abu (English)	40	6	Private management.
Lawrence School Mt. Abu	49	29	Imperial funds and private subscriptions.



1	2	3	4
Primary School Mt. Abu (Vernacular)	63	..	Private subscrip- tion and grant- in-aid by municipi- pality.
Primary School Abu Road (English)	21	27	B.B.&C.I.R. au- thorities.
High School Abu Road (Anglo-Vernacular)	206	10	B.B.&C.I.R. au- thorities and Government aid.
Darbar Middle School Siro- hi (Anglo-Vernacular)	59	43	Darbar.
Darbar School Rohera	(figures not known)		Darbar.

The high school at Mt. Abu, ceased to be a co-educational institution after 1906-07. In all the schools, except those maintained by the Darbar and the anglo-vernacular schools, the medium of instruction was English. In 1905-06, the Darbar granted scholarships to encourage education and, in 1909-10, grants-in-aid were given to private primary schools at Sheoganj, Rohera and Pindwara. In the Darbar School at Sirohi (re-named as Colvin High School in 1915), education was free.

In 1914, the primary school at Mt. Abu was raised to the status of high school by the municipality. In 1922, a primary school was opened at Abu Road by the Darbar and was given a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,800/- a year. The rest of the expenditure was met by the public of Abu Road. In order to impart education to the backward class of the Girasia, the Darbar opened schools from time to time. By 1930, there were ten schools maintained by the State. These were:

The Colvin High School, Sirohi. The Girasia schools at Siwa, Surpagla, Kui, Mungthala and Bhulan and the primary schools at Sirohi, Mandar, Rohera and Abu Road. In the same year, however, the Girasia school at Bhulan was

closed. In 1937, a school at Erinpura known as the Darbar Vernacular School came under the Education Department of the State. Simultaneously, a primary school, was opened at Pindwara. Another primary school for girls was opened at Sirohi.

In 1938-39, the Revenue Department took over the control of the Girasia schools, the others remained with the Education Department. Besides the existing three Girasia schools and one *Pathshala*, sanction was accorded for opening nine Girasia schools and nine rural schools. Of these, two Girasia schools were not opened as sufficient number of pupils was not forthcoming, perhaps because this was a year of scarcity. Also, of the nine rural schools, two were not started, one at Mandar and the other at Kiverli, the first due to want of a building and the other because the jagirdar at Kiverli was unwilling to meet 10 per cent of the expenses of the school. However, a total of 508 children from 43 villages took advantage of the Girasia and rural schools in 1939.

In 1940, there were in all 25 schools maintained by the Darbar. Of these, one was a high school, one a middle school, two lower middle, anglo-vernacular schools, six vernacular primary schools and 15 rural schools, including a Sanskrit *pathshala*. The details are as under:—

<i>Name and Location of School</i>	<i>No. of students</i>
Colvin High School, Sirohi	400
D. A. V. Middle School, Abu Road	199
D. A. V. School, Pindwara	132
D. A. V. School, Rohera	117
Darbar Vernacular Primary School, Nadia	76
Sir Kesri Singhji Vernacular Boys' Primary School, Sirohi	228
Sir Kesri Singhji Vernacular Girls' Primary School, Sirohi	140
Darbar Vernacular Primary School, Bhutgam	49
Darbar Vernacular Primary School, Siwa	53
Darbar Vernacular Primary School, Kui	34
15 rural schools	390
	<hr/> 1,818 <hr/>

The Darbar also started a scheme in 1939 for awarding scholarships on a merit-cum-poverty basis. In 1941, five new schools were opened. Of these, one was an anglo-vernacular school at Sheoganj and the other four were primary and lower primary schools at Mandar, Nitara, Jawal and Oriā. Besides these Darbar maintained schools, there were several other private schools. Steps to provide grant-in-aid to private schools were taken in 1942 and grants were given to three schools at Sirohi, Abu Road and Mandar. In 1943, five primary and lower primary school were opened at Barloot, Meda, Sirohi, Sildar and Posalia, respectively. This raised the total number of State schools to 35. In the same year, the Darbar Primary School at Einpura was amalgamated with the newly opened Darbar Middle School. In 1944, two new primary schools were opened at Dhanari and Khambal and, in 1945, two rural schools were opened at Reodar and Vasa. To encourage education among the Muslims, grant-in-aid of Rs. 35/- and Rs. 25/- was sanctioned to the two Muslim private schools.

Between 1940 and 1950, attempts were made to spread education among the backward classes. For this, a number of scholarships and concessions were granted. Scholarships were of three kinds one for higher education and professional training and ranged from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 75/- per month, the second kind of scholarship was given on a need basis to students of the depressed classes and the third was given for prosecuting oriental studies, especially Sanskrit. In Abu Road area no tuition fee was levied in rural schools and girls education was also free. In other schools, fee levied was low enough to make education within easy reach of all classes of people. The children of sweepers were exempted from school fees in 1941 with a view to infuse interest for education in this most backward and depressed class. As an incentive to the sons of jagirdars, exemption from fees and free board and lodging in the Darbar boarding houses (at Sirohi) were granted. Concessions were also granted to the children (boys as well as girls) of military personnel. In 1946, a primary school named the *Harijan Pathshala* was opened at Sirohi to give additional facilities to *Harijans*.

During 1940-41, a system of granting rewards to those teaching illiterate adults to read and write, was started to encourage literacy. The reward for teaching an adult of a

cultivating class' was fixed at rupees three while that for other classes, rupees two per head.

In the interest of preservation and betterment of the health of school children, a monthly medical examination of the students in the schools at Abu Road, Pindwara and Shicoganj by the Medical Officers, was started in 1943-44. They were instructed to treat the ailing children and report the progress or defects in their health to their parents or guardians with a view to enlisting their co-operation in their proper treatment and satisfactory nourishment. The scheme had earlier in the year 1942-43, been introduced in the schools at Sirohi.

At first, all the educational institutions of the State were controlled by the Assistant Diwan, but about the year 1924, they were placed under a Superintendent of Education. In 1940, an Inspectorate was set-up under him. The Inspector was in charge of all schools except those at Sirohi, which were directly under the Superintendent. Of course, the Girasia schools continued to be controlled by the Revenue Department. This position continued till the merger of the State. However, the Darbar had nothing to do with the educational institutions run at Mt. Abu by the British Government and others.

August 16, 1945 was a landmark in the history of education of the State as primary education was on that date made compulsory. To begin with, it was introduced in the municipal area of Sirohi. Each municipal member was made responsible to take a census of the children of school-going age in his ward and to see that no such child, whether a boy or a girl, failed to join a school. Legislation was passed laying down penalties for guardians not complying with these orders. As a result, educational facilities were rapidly extended in the succeeding years and at the time of the merger of the State with Rajasthan, there were 68 primary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, two girls schools, a special school and two aided schools. The following statement shows the position tahsilwise:—

Name of tahsil	No. of primary school	No. of middle school	No. of high school
1	2	3	4
Sirohi	23	Darbar Middle School, Kalandri.	Colvin School, Sirohi.

1	2	3	4
		Darbar Middle School, Mandwaria.	
Pindwara	21	..	..
Sheoganj	10	Darbar Middle School, Posalia.	Government High School, Sheoganj.
Reodar	14	..	..

Besides these institutions maintained by the Darbar, the old institutions at Mount Abu and Abu Road continued to be in existence. Among these were the Sophia High School at Mt. Abu. The Abu High School (re-named St. Mary's High School), Mt. Abu, the Govt. High School Mt. Abu, the Railway High School at Abu Road and the Vedic Kanya Vidyaleya (girls' school) at Abu Road.

#### GENERAL EDUCATION

Following the merger of the State, the educational institutions of the district were placed under the Divisional Inspector of Schools whose headquarters were at Jodhpur. In 1955, a post of Deputy Inspector of Schools was created for the district and it was raised to an Inspectorate in 1958-59. The Inspector of Schools is now in charge of 23 boys' schools in the district, others having been transferred to the Panchayat Samitis. He is assisted by a Deputy Inspector. The girls' schools are controlled by the Deputy Inspectress of Schools of Jodhpur.

Since the merger, there has been a considerable expansion of educational facilities. The number of primary schools which in 1950 was 68, rose to 167 by 1955-56 and to 270 (including six for girls) by 1960-61. This number (270) includes the junior basic schools (31) also. The middle schools rose from three in 1950 to eight in 1955-56 and to 21 (including two for girls) in 1960-61. There were only two high schools at the time of the merger whereas in 1955-56 and 1960-61, the number of high and higher secondary schools taken together, was 6 and 13, respectively.

**Primary Schools**

In the year 1955-56, there were 167 primary schools in the district. Of these, 40 were in Sirohi tahsil, 26 in Sheoganj, 36 in Pindwara, 36 in Abu Road and 29 in Reodar tahsil. By 1960-61, the number had risen to 270. After the formation of the panchayat samitis in October 1959, primary education was entrusted to their care. In 1960-61 there were 41 primary schools under the Abu Road Samiti, 53 under the Reodar Samiti, 54 under the Sirohi Samiti (including 3 for girls), 41 under the Sheoganj Samiti and 54 under the Pindwara Samiti (including two for girls). A total of 25 primary schools (including one for girls) was retained under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Schools and two were run by the Central Government. There is also a municipal school at Abu Road. Since 1956-57, 31 primary schools have been converted into basic schools. The samitiwise and yearwise conversion of these schools is as under :—

*Name of Samiti**Name of Schools*

Sheoganj

Government Primary School, Sheoganj (1956-57), Government Primary School No. 2, Sheoganj (1957-58), Government Primary School No. 3, Sheoganj (1958-59), Government Primary School, Erinpura (1959-60), Government Primary School, Uthman (1960-61).

Sirohi

S. K. School Sirohi (1956-57), Government Primary School No. 2 Sirohi (1957-58), Government Primary School Sohili (1958-59), Government Primary School Harijanshala, Sirohi (1959-60), Government Primary School Sildar (1959-60), Government Primary School Mohabatnagar (1960-61), Government Primary School No. 4 Sirohi (1960-61).

Pindwara

Government Primary School Nitora (1957-58), Government Primary School Vatera (1958-59), Government Primary School Veerwara (1958-59), Government Primary School Dharari (1958-59), Government

Primary School Nandia (1959-60), Government Primary School Naya Sanwara (1959-60), Government Primary School Kojra (1959-60), Government Primary School Pindwara (1959-60), Government Primary School Vasa (1960-61).

#### Abu Road

Government Primary School Abu Road (1958-59), Government Primary School Tartoli (1959-60), Arbud Kanyashala, Abu Road (1959-60), Government Primary School, Kesarganj (1959-60), Government Primary School, Akrahhatta (1960-61), Government Primary School No. 2 Abu Road (1960-61).

#### Reodar

Government Primary School Datani (1958-59), Government Primary School Mandar (1958-59), Government Primary School Bhatana (1959-60), Government Primary School Sanwara (1960-61).

There is a montessori school at Sirohi, known as 'Bal mandir'. The five room building was constructed by the Darbar in 1948 and the school began functioning in 1950. When it was started in 1950-51, there were three teachers (all trained). In 1955-56 there were four teachers (three trained and one untrained) and in 1960-61 five teachers, four of whom were trained and one untrained. The number of students was 79 in 1960-61.

There is another montessori school at Abu Road which was started in October, 1959. It is controlled by the Municipal Committee. It has two teachers and 75 students.

There are six girls' schools of which five are under the Panchayat Samitis and one under the education department of the Rajasthan Government.

There is also a primary school at Abu Road which is a co-educational institution. Its medium of instruction

is English. The teaching staff consists of three trained and two untrained teachers.

Of the above primary schools, the three maintained by the railway at Abu Road need special mention. The primary section of the railway high school was separated in September, 1958. At present, the boys are accommodated in 12 rooms. More rooms are under construction. The girls' school was started in 1919 by the B. B. & C. I. Railway. At present, it has seven rooms and residential quarters are provided for the teachers. These two schools receive aid from the Rajasthan Education Department. The third primary school was opened in 1907. It is housed in five big rooms. At present this school receives no aid from the Rajasthan Government. Both girls and boys study in this institution.

At the end of the year 1960-61, there were 414 teachers in the primary schools, including the girls' schools. Of these, 340 were under the control of the panchayats. A total of 86 men and two women were trained teachers; 309 men and 17 women were untrained. Of a total number of 14,267 pupils, 11,179 (9,684 boys and 1,495 girls) were in the schools under the samitis and 3,088 (2,611 boys and 477 girls) in those under the direct control of the Inspector. The average daily attendance in the schools under the Inspectorate in 1960-61 was 2,780.68 and under the samitis 10,521.14.

### Secondary (middle) Schools

There were eight middle schools for boys in 1955-56, of which three (at Kalandri, Mandwaria and Posalia respectively) existed in 1950. The five new schools opened were at Sirohi, Mandar, Pindwara, Jharoli and Rohera. The school at Sirohi was for girls only. In 1960-61, the number had risen to 21 of which two were for girls. Their location was as under:—

#### *Samiti*

#### *Location of boys school*

Pindwara	..	Jharoli, Sarupganj, Kojra and Bharija.
Sirohi	..	Mandwaria, Jawal, Padiv, Barooth, Sildar and Sirohi.
Sheoganj	..	Posalia and Palri.
Reodar	..	Reodar, Anadra and Dantrai.
Abu Road	..	Kiverli and Santpur.
Urban areas	..	Rohera and Abu Road.



The two girls' schools are at Sheoganj and Mount Abu. Thus the progress of girls' education has not been as spectacular as that of the boys. In 1960-61 there were 164 teachers in the boys' schools, one of them a woman. Fifty-five teachers were trained and 109 untrained. The number of students in the boys' schools, in 1960-61 was 3,819; a total of 281 girls were attending these schools.

### High and Higher Secondary Schools

In 1955-56, there were six high schools—five for boys and one for girls. These were—the Railway High School, Abu Road; the Municipal High School, Abu Road; the Municipal High School, Mount Abu; St. Mary's High School, Mount Abu; and the Sophia Convent High School, Mount Abu. This number rose to 13 (ten schools for boys and three for girls) in 1960-61. The High School at Sirohi and the Railway High School at Abu Road were upgraded to the higher secondary standards and new Higher Secondary Schools were opened at Pindwara, Mandar, Kalandri and Rohera. Also, Girls' High Schools were opened at Sirohi and Abu Road.

*Government High School, Sheoganj.*—This school was opened as a Darbar Anglo-vernacular Lower Middle School in April, 1942 with the aid of a donation from a philanthropist named Shri Naimmal Khichia (later on Rai Saheb). It was raised to the middle standard in July, 1943 and renamed H. R. Darbar Middle School. In 1948 the school was raised to the high school standard and affiliated to Rajputana University. Now it is affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan. The school has a library with about 3,000 books. There is a small hostel run by a Trust which can accommodate 20 students. The school has as many as eight play grounds. There are 500 students and 21 teachers, of whom two are trained. As many as 83 students from the backward classes, 25 from the Scheduled Castes and 16 from the Scheduled Tribes were studying in the school in 1960-61.

*Government High School, Abu Road.*—This was started as a primary school in January, 1922 and received a grant of Rs. 1,800/- annually from the State,

the rest of the expenditure being met by the public of Abu Road. It was then known as the Darbar Anglo-Vernacular School. In 1938-39, it was raised to Middle standard and when it shifted to a new building in September, 1942 it was called the Sir Arthur Lothian English Middle School. After the merger, the institution was taken over by the municipality and in 1953 it was raised to high school standard. The school building has 12 rooms and a hall and there is a library of 2,639 books. There were 299 students and 10 teachers (four trained) in 1960-61. The number of students from the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1960-61 were 30, 36 and 18 respectively.

*Government High School, Mount Abu.*—This school was opened in 1888 as a Hindi-Urdu *Madarsa*. It was raised to middle standard in 1914 and re-named as Walter School. It became a high school in 1943. Prior to 1957, when it was taken over by the Education Department, it was maintained by the municipality and was affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Bombay. With the addition of four rooms each in 1927 and 1940 and two rooms in 1959-60, the school building has sixteen rooms now. The school library has 3,358 books. In 1960-61 there were 183 students and 13 teachers (six of them trained). There were 16 students from the backward classes, 20 from the Scheduled Castes and five from the Scheduled Tribes.

*Higher Secondary School, Sirohi.*—In 1957-58 it was separated from the college and was two years later raised to the higher secondary standard. A new building is under construction. The school has a hostel accommodating 24 students and a library of 8,178 books. A magazine "*Shat Dal*" is published annually. The "*Natya Kala Mandir*" society of the school gives dramatic performances on important occasions.

*Higher Secondary School, Rohera.*—This was opened in July, 1960. At present there are only three classes-ninth, tenth and eleventh and a total of 17 students and seven teachers two of whom are trained.

*Railway Higher Secondary School, Abu Road.*—This was started as an anglo-vernacular high school in 1887 by the railway authorities. It was then affiliated to the Ajmer Board of Education. In 1954 it was affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Poona, but, following the Reorganisation of States in 1956 and the incorporation of Abu Road tahsil in this district, it was affiliated to the Board of Primary and Secondary Education, Rajasthan in 1957. The school building has 16 rooms, a library of 3,518 books, five play-grounds and laboratory for science students. In 1960-61 there were 304 students and 17 teachers of whom 16 were trained. In all, 22 students belonging to the backward classes and 27 from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, were receiving education in this school in 1960-61.

*Government Higher Secondary School, Kalandri.*—In July 1949 this was known as the Darbar Middle School and it was raised to the higher secondary standard in July, 1958. There are 17 rooms in the school building, including a hall. The school library has 1,575 books.

The number of students in 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1960-61 was 192 (189 boys and three girls), 167 (162 boys and five girls) and 147 (135 boys and 12 girls), respectively. The number of teachers was 14 (all untrained), 12 (three trained) and 12 (five trained), during the three years respectively. The number of backward class and Scheduled Caste students was 26 and 16, 13 and 6 and 14 and three, in 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1960-61, respectively.

Kalandri has two private hostels for students—the Purohit Boarding House and the Jain Boarding House, each having accommodation for 20 students. The school has seven play-grounds.

*Government Higher Secondary School, Mandar.*—This was started as a primary school in July, 1943. It was upgraded in July, 1952 to the middle standard and in 1957 to the higher secondary standard. The school has a library containing 1,810 books on various subjects. There are 15 rooms and a hall.

In the years 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1960-61, the number of students was 235, 250 and 185 respectively, and the number of teachers five, eleven and twelve, respectively. In 1960-61 there were eight Scheduled Caste students, 12 backward class students and two those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

*St. Mary's High School, Mt. Abu.*—This was opened in 1885 as a high school. The main building was erected by the B.B.&C.I. Railway Company in 1887 at a cost of about a lakh and a half of rupees. The institution came under private management in 1903. Later, it was taken over by the S.P.C. Mission and then by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ajmer. In 1929 the Irish Christian Brothers took charge and they still run the school.

The school building is now owned by the Central P.W.D. and is leased free of charge. A second storey has been added to the main building in recent years and there is also a new laboratory block. The school library has about 2,500 books. The number of students has increased from about 90 in 1930-31 to 143 in 1950-51, 246 in 1955-56 and 316 in 1960-61. There are 12 teachers, most of them Christian Brothers. About 75 per cent of the students are boarders.

*Government Higher Secondary School, Pindwara.*—Opened as a primary school in 1926, it was upgraded to middle standard in 1948 and to the higher secondary standard in July, 1956. The building belongs to the Government. There are 17 class rooms, of which two were constructed in 1956 and five in 1960.

At present (1960-61) the number of students is 250 and that of teachers 15. The library has 2,647 books. The school has 10 play-grounds. There is, however, no hostel accommodation.

*Government Girls' High School, Sirohi.*—Started as a vernacular primary school about 1930 by the Darbar, this was raised to the middle standard in 1954 and to high school standard in July, 1958. The school build-

ing has 13 rooms. There were 121 students and nine teachers (five trained) in 1960-61. The controlling authority is the Deputy Director of Education stationed at Jodhpur.

*Vedic Kanya Vidyalaya High School, Abu Road.*—This institution came into existence in 1941 as a primary school. It became a middle school in 1958, and high school in 1960. It is run by the Arya Samaj, Abu Road, and is aided by the Government. There are nine class rooms and a small library of 800 books. The school started with 11 students in 1940-41, but the number had risen to 230 by 1950-51 and 283 by 1960-61. In the last named year there were three trained and six untrained teachers; 35 students from the backward classes and five from the Scheduled Castes were receiving education.

*Sophia Convent High School, Mt. Abu.*—This school was started by nuns of the order of St. Mary of the Angels. In 1951, it was taken over by the Mission Sister of Ajmer. Apart from the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate Examination, students are prepared for the examinations of the Trinity College of Music, London. The school receives aid from the Rajasthan Education Department. It has 11 class rooms, a large hall, a library of 3,009 books and a hostel which can accommodate about 130 students. In 1960-61, there were 201 students.

### Colleges

The only college in the district is at Sirohi. It was originally started as a Darbar Primary School in 1879 and was raised to middle standard in 1885. In 1915, the school was transferred to a new building and re-named as Colvin High School though high school classes were actually started only in 1929. Originally, subjects were taught according to the syllabus laid down by Allahabad University. Later, the school was affiliated to the Ajmer Board of Education and then to the University of Rajputana. The institution was raised to the Intermediate standard in 1952-53 and became a Degree College in 1957. The high school classes were separated the same year.

The college building is a double-storeyed one and has 25 rooms and a hall. There are three Faculties, namely:

Arts, Commerce and Science. The Science Faculty has four departments, physics, chemistry, botany and zoology. There are separate laboratories for each. A sum of Rs. one lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of a separate science block.

The college has a well-equipped library containing about 8,680 books. There are several play-grounds and a hostel having accommodation for 32 students. A new and bigger hostel is to be constructed. In 1960-61, there were 201 students, of whom 65 were in the Science Faculty, 106 in Arts and 30 in Commerce. The staff consisted of 22 lecturers.

The following table sums up the progress made in the district, in the matter of educational facilities since the formation of Rajasthan:—

	1950-51	1960-61
Primary Schools .. .. .	68	270
Middle Schools .. .. .	3	21
High & Higher Secondary Schools ..	2	13
Colleges .. .. .	..	1
Montessori Schools .. .. .	1	2
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>307</b>

The above table shows that the number of schools has increased four-fold within a decade. This is due partly to the inclusion of the Abu area in the district in the year 1956, but more especially, to the government policy of rapidly spreading educational facilities under the Five Year Plans.

### LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

#### Literacy

According to the Census of 1951, general literacy in this district was 6.9 per cent. Among males, it was 11.80 per cent and among females 2.0 per cent. It was much higher in urban than in rural areas. In urban area it was 23.0 per cent (36.5 per cent males and 9.70 per cent females) and in rural area it was 4.80 per cent (8.6 per cent males and 1.0 per cent females). According to the Basic Educational Statistics 1962, published by the Directorate of Education Rajasthan, the percentage of literacy in 1960-61 in the

district was 13.9. Among males it was 21.2 and among females, 6.2.

### Educational standards

According to the Census Report of 1951, the number of those who had passed the middle school was 1,517 of whom 1,474 were males and 43 females. A total of 112 persons had passed the Intermediate (110 males and two females). Graduates numbered 58 (56 males and two females) and post-graduates 10. Only 33 persons possessed technical qualifications; one in teaching, one in engineering, one in agriculture, one in veterinary, 22 in law and seven in medicine.

In 1961 there were 49,072 literates in the district of whom 3,230 possessed qualifications equivalent to matriculation and above. The number of male literates was 38,419 while that of female literates was 10,654. The number of males possessing qualifications equivalent to matriculation and above was 2,972, while the number of such females was only 258. The literates formed 13.9 per cent of the population. The male literates formed 21.2 per cent of the male population, while the female literates formed 6.2 per cent of female population. The literates can be classified as (1) simple literates who do not possess any educational qualifications, that is, those who can write a letter and also can read one and understand its meaning, (2) those who have passed primary or junior basic examination and (3) those who have passed the matriculation or higher examinations. According to this classification, the number of simple literates was 44,604 of whom 34,282 were males and 10,322 females. There were 1,239 persons who had passed primary or junior basic examinations, 1,165 of whom were males and 74 females. Expressed in terms of percentages, more literates formed 12.6 per cent of the population and the persons who had passed the primary or junior basic examinations, formed 0.4 per cent while those who had passed the matriculation or higher examinations, formed 0.9 per cent of the population.

The number of literates and educated persons was naturally higher among the urban population than among the rural population. In urban areas more literates formed 33.2 per cent of the population. The corresponding figure for the rural area of the district was only 8.6 per cent. Similarly,

the number of persons who have passed the primary or junior basic examination formed 0.32 per cent of the population in the urban area as compared with 0.36 per cent in the rural area. The persons who passed the matriculation or higher examinations formed 4.37 per cent of the population in the urban as compared with 0.23 per cent in the rural areas.

### Education of Women

Up to about 1930, scant attention was paid to the education of women. At that time, the only schools to which women were admitted were the railway schools and the Lawrence School at Mt. Abu. There were no vernacular girls' school. It was only in the early thirties that a girls' school was opened at Sirohi by the Darbar. At the time of 1951 Census, the percentages of female literacy was 9.70 and 1.0 in the urban and the rural areas respectively. At present (1961) there are three girls' high schools at Sirohi, Abu Road and Mt. Abu and three middle schools at Rohera, Sheoganj and Mt. Abu. In the rural areas there are no girls' schools, but *mahila mandals* are organised by the panchayat samitis. Girls are, of course, permitted to attend all primary schools but in practice very few do so as the people are not yet mentally prepared to permit their daughters to attend educational institutions where boys are also admitted.

### Education of Backward Classes

It was not before the third decade of the present century that an attempt was made to encourage education among the backward classes. About 1925, primary schools for Girasias were started by the Darbar and in 1930 there were ten such schools. In 1938-39 control of these schools was transferred to the Revenue Department of the State "in view of the growing stress laid on rural reconstruction."<sup>1</sup> In 1946, a primary school, the Harijan Pathshala, was opened at Sirohi. At present, there are no separate schools for backward classes but for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes there is an *ashram school* at Nichalgarh in the Abu Road panchayat samiti area where students are given free tuition, board and lodging. At Pindwara and Sirohi, there are hostels for students belonging to the backward classes. The Social Welfare Department runs schools for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and in 1960-61, 5,121 students from these classes were receiving education. Of these, 3,877 were in primary schools, 930 in middle schools, 994 in high schools and 20 in the college.

1. The Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1939, p. 24.



## PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

There is a Senior Teachers' Training Certificate School at Sheoganj for the training of teachers. It was started in July, 1956. In 1960-61, there were 100 students and 11 teachers. There is a hostel for the students. At Abu Road, railway station there are two technical training institutions for class IV traffic staff of the Railways. A training college for police personnels functions at Mt. Abu; details are given in the chapter on Law & Order and Justice.

### Special Schools

There are no special schools for the cultivation of fine arts though music and dancing are taught in some of the girls' schools.

### Social Education

An experiment in adult literacy was begun in 1940 and as an incentive those attending classes regularly were given cash awards. After the formation of Rajasthan, social education schemes were taken up under the development programmes. The Social Welfare Department of the State Government has its own schemes, prominent among which are the setting up of two part-time social education centres, one at Sirohi (Meghwal-ki-Basti) and the other at Sheoganj (Harijan Basti) for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Another full-time social education centre at Mt. Abu is also exclusively for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

At Sirohi there are two *Sanskar Kendras* one for men and the other for women, which are open to all classes of people. In the rural areas the samitis conduct night classes under the overall supervision of Social Education Organisers. Youth clubs, *Mahila Mandals* and *Bal Vatikas* are organised and social education is imparted through audio-visual aids. *Gram Kakis* and *Gram Sathins* have been appointed to persuade women to join these programmes and classes. According to the Statistical Abstract Rajasthan, 1961, there were 88 schools for special education e.g. dancing, music etc.

## CULTURE

There were court poets during the time of the princely State, but none achieved any substantial fame except

**Adha Dursa** and **Adha Opa**. They composed verses in *Dingal*. Maharao Surtan patronised Adha Dursa and granted him a jagir.

**Mandan Bandharad**, well known 16th century author of the popular Gujarati works '*Prabodh Battisi*' *Rukmangada katha* and the *Ramayana*, belonged to Sirohi. The reputed historian Gurishankar Hirachand Ojha was born in Rohera village in Sirohi State in 1863. Modern authors like Anandi, Gokulbhai Bhatt and Bhimashankar Sharma belong to this area. Bhimashankar Sharma, a leading lawyer and politician of Sirohi started a Gujarati fortnightly the '*Sirohi Sandesh*' in the year 1936 with a view to bring about political awakening among the inhabitants of the Sirohi State.

### Libraries

Apart from those attached to the schools and the college, which are in a sense private libraries, there are three public libraries. These are: the Sarneshwar library, Sirohi, the Tahsil Library, Sheoganj and the Municipal library at Mt. Abu. The first and second are under the Inspector of Schools whereas the third is maintained by the Municipal Committee. A reading room is also maintained at Sirohi by the Municipal Committee, Sirohi.

*Shri Sarneshwar District Library, Sirohi.*—Before construction of the present building in 1954, the library had been functioning in one of the rooms of the *Bal Mandir* since 1948. In 1956, it was re-named as Shri Sarneshwar District Library. At present there are 6,117 books. In the beginning there were only 150 members but by 1955-56 the membership had risen to 300 and by 1960-61 to 823. The library subscribes to 40 periodicals, of which six are dailies, eight weeklies and 26 monthlies. The staff consists of a librarian, a clerk and a peon. The working hours are 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in summer and 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in winter. Attached to the library building is a park with two fountains, erected by the public of Sirohi in 1957. A youth club is also run in its premises. The youth club has about 50 members.

*Tahsil Library, Sheoganj.*—This library was opened in November, 1956. At present, there are 2,219 books. Membership is free. The staff consists of a library clerk and a peon.

*Public Library, Mt. Abu.*—Set up in 1930 and maintained by the municipality, this library has a staff of one library clerk and a peon. It is very well patronised by the local public. The library has 700 books in English, 1,200 in Hindi and 600 in Gujarati.

*Reading Room at Sirohi.*—The municipal committee at Sirohi runs a reading room which was started in January, 1959. There is no staff except for a peon, who opens the room in the evening for two hours. The number of daily readers is between 20 and 25. The annual expenditure on the reading room including lighting is about Rs. 300/-.

### Botanical and Zoological Gardens

The Superintendent of Gardens for Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions maintains six ornamental gardens in this district. Four of these are at Sirohi viz. the Gandhi Park, the Library Park, the Circuit House Garden and the Sarupvilas Garden and two viz. Kota and Dholpur House Gardens, at Mt. Abu.

A children's park is maintained by the municipal committee of Sirohi. It is located in front of the Power House and was constructed in the year 1958. An amount of Rs. 1,500/- is spent yearly on its maintenance.

Three parks are maintained by the municipal committee at Abu Road. They are the Shanti Kunj Park (constructed in 1947-48), Gandhi Park (constructed in 1952-53) and the River Park (constructed in 1954-55).

The municipality at Mt. Abu maintains four parks—two at Nakhi Lake, one at the Bender Mare Lake and one in front of the Public Library. A terrace garden at the Nakhi Lake, an Orchard near the Soda Water well and six 'traffic island' gardens are also maintained by the municipality. All these parks and gardens, except the Orchard, are of long standing. The Orchard came into existence in 1959.

The Sheoganj municipality maintains two parks—a public park and a children's park. The former has been in existence since pre-independence times; the later was constructed in 1958.

There is a public park at Pindwara which is maintained by the municipal committee. It was constructed during the year 1956 and is situated on the station road.

Three nurseries are maintained in the district, one by the Agriculture Department at Mt. Abu and the other two by the panchayat samitis at Pindwara and Sirohi.

## CHAPTER XVI

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

#### EARLY HISTORY

Before the 19th century, when modern methods of treatment were unknown in the area, four classes of persons monopolized the field of medical science. These were  *vaidyas*  or Hindu physicians,  *hakims*  or Muslim physicians, Hindu and Muslim ascetics and, lastly,  *Bhopas* , who were experts in curing snake-bite. In the hilly and forest areas, where snakes were very common, the services of these  *Bhopas*  were much in demand. Their chief method—sucking out the poison by means of a horn ( *seengi* ), is still used among the Bhils and Gerasias of the Bhula and Valoria areas of the district. The  *hakims*  and  *vaidyas*  used herbal remedies, where as the ascetics claimed to effect cures through spiritual power. The  *vaidyas*  had no dispensaries, medicinal compounds being usually prepared in the temples.

Almost all types of fever, and especially malaria (which was locally known as  *judi* ) were treated with decoctions of ginger, black pepper and  *nimgilac* ; in some cases opium was also used. Many of the people had much faith in tea to ward off or cut short attacks of fever. For small-pox, people resorted to the worship of the goddess— *Shitala*  and burned donkey-dung near the patient. Some diseases, particularly those of the stomach, were treated by branding the affected part with a red-hot article, usually a  *chilam*  (smoking pipe). Cases of rabies were taken to the temple of Waneshwar Mahadeo in Sheoganj tahsil and lepers bathed in a  *kund*  in the temple of Saraneshwar or worshipped  *Khejra*  tree.

Surgery was in the hands of barbers and  *Zurrahs* , who used their own crude methods to set fractures or to

amputate a limb. Patients were usually quietened by a dose of opium and knives were passed through a flame for sterilization.

### EPIDEMICS

Epidemics were fortunately of rare occurrence and most of those, which did occur could usually be traced to pilgrims returning from far-off shrines. Adams<sup>1</sup> mentions that cholera had broken out in epidemic form during the years 1883, 1887, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1895 and 1896. When the famine struck the territory in 1899-1900, cholera appeared once again with small-pox in an epidemic form and took a heavy toll of life. Sporadic cases of cholera were also recorded during the years 1875-76, 1888, 1891 and 1944-45. The mortality figures due to these epidemics for the above years are as below:—

Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths
1883	51		
1887	25	1893	51
1890	96	1895	17
1892	37	1896	54

According to the Sirohi State Administration Reports, in each case the State Government took strong remedial measures. Isolation huts were built, poor-houses washed and drinking water wells disinfected with permagnate, lime or alum. Special guards were posted at the wells to ensure that a single pot was used. Travellers were kept in quarantine for at least five days, the clothes and bedding of those who died of cholera, were burnt and medicines were distributed in the affected areas.

A bubonic plague epidemic was recorded in 1836 and there were further visitations in the years 1896-97, 1904-05, 1907-08 and 1917-18. In the last named year, quarantine posts were immediately established and certain villages were vacated. None the less the plague took 1,686 lives.

Malaria assumed epidemic form in 1908-09, 1909-10 and 1945-46. The widespread influenza epidemic of 1917-18 claimed 10,793 lives in this area and small-pox killed 1,510

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1. Western Rajputana States, p. 216.

people in 1929-30. In the year 1922-23, dengue fever was prevalent in epidemic form and a large section of the population was affected.

### Medical Institutions

The first medical institution on modern lines was opened about 1836-37 at Erinpura for troops of the old Jodhpur Legion and was known as the Regimental Hospital. A few years later, two hospitals were set up at Mount Abu—one for invalid British soldiers and the other for the civil population. The former was known as sanitarium and was opened in 1845 and the latter was known as the Rajputana Agency Hospital.

In the year 1868, a dispensary was opened at Sirohi by the State. The people were not attracted to this institution in the beginning for fear of losing their caste but gradually, by gentle persuasion and from obvious usefulness and benefits, people resorted to the European system of treatment. In the same year, two other dispensaries came into existence—one at Mount Abu and the other at Anadra. Both of these charitable dispensaries were run mainly from voluntary contributions. The Anadra dispensary was, however, wound up in 1887 and its staff transferred to Abu Road.

Thus, in the year 1880-81, there were six medical institutions in the State, viz., one at Erinpura, one at Sirohi, three at Mount Abu and one at Anadra. The number of patients treated by these institutions in 1881 was 5,146 and the number of operations performed was 286. The daily average of indoor and outdoor patients in the same year was 5.53 and 58.50, respectively. The above figures do not include the number of patients treated in the hospitals at Abu (Sanitarium and Rajputana Agency) and Erinpura (Regimental Hospital).

In the year 1891, the number of medical institutions remained the same, the Anadra dispensary having been replaced by the new one at Abu Road. The number of patients continued to increase. In this year, the total number of patients treated in these institutions, excluding

the Regimental Hospital, Rajputana Agency Hospital and Sanitarium at Mount Abu, was 11,720 and the operations performed were 828.

The dispensary, which was set up at Sirohi in the year 1868, shifted to a new building in 1897 and came to be known as Crosthwaite Hospital. This new building provided an accommodation for 24 indoor patients.

In the year 1893, a dispensary was opened at Shীগanj. The building proved inadequate and consequently it was shifted to a new building in 1899. In 1897, at this dispensary 82 operations were performed and 1,903 patients were treated.

In the last decade of the last century, two new medical institutions were opened—a hospital at Abu Road by the railway authorities for the benefit of their employees and a dispensary at Sirohi, known as Palace Dispensary. Thus, in 1901, there were nine medical institutions in the area.

In memory of Lt. Col. Adams, a hospital was opened at Mount Abu in the year 1902. This hospital replaced the old Rajputana Agency Hospital and the charitable dispensary.

Excluding the figures of Sanitarium hospital at Mount Abu, the Railway Hospital, Abu Road, Regimental Hospital, Eripura and Palace Dispensary Sirohi, the number of patients treated in the above institutions in the year 1901 was 25,656 and the number of operations performed was 1,342.

In 1907, there were eight medical institutions in the area—seven hospitals and one dispensary. Some of these institutions were maintained by the Darbar, other by charity and some by the British Government. The particulars are as under :—

Maintained by Darbar.	No. of beds.	Maintained by British Govt.	No. of beds.
1	2	3	4
1. Crosthwaite Hos- pital Sirohi.	24	1. Sanitarium Hos- pital Mount Abu.	29



1	2	3	4
2. Sheoganj Hospital Sheoganj.	12	2. Military Hospital, Erinpura.	45
3. Palace Dispensary, Sirohi.	..		..

Maintained by Govt. and private subscrip- tion.	No. of beds.	Maintained by Raj- putana-Malwa Rly.	No. of beds.
1. Civil Hospital, Abu Road.	4	1. Railway Hospital Abu Road.	7
2. Adams' Memorial Hospital, Mt. Abu	12	..	..

The civil hospital at Abu Road was taken over by the Darbar in May, 1918.

In the years that followed, more medical institutions were established. These were :—(a) dispensaries at Mandar (1921-22); Kalandri (1928), Sarupganj and Palri (1939), Pindwara (1943-44), Rohera (1947), Jawal and Anadra (1950); the dispensary at Sarupganj was closed in 1943-44 and that at Palri in 1941-42 due to want of patients. (b) a Zenana Hospital at Sirohi (1933-34). (c) a maternity home (Kesarbai Maternity Home) was attached to Sarneshwar Dispensary at Abu Road (July 1943). (d) two anti-rabic centres; one attached to the dispensary at Abu Road (1928) and the other to the Crosthwaite Hospital at Sirohi (1933).

Besides the above institutions, which were maintained by the State before merger in Rajasthan, there were two more, Railway hospital at Abu Road maintained by the railway authorities and the Adams' Memorial Hospital at Mount Abu, which was run by the Bombay Government till 1956.

It will be interesting to compare the number of the patients treated during the past decades. During the year 1881, a total of 5,146 patients were treated whereas in 1891 and 1901 the number rose to 11,720 and 25,656 respectively. The number increased in the succeeding years. In the year 1910-11, 19,125 outdoor and 138 indoor patients were treated, whereas in 1920-21 the number was 23,385 outdoor and 115 indoor patients. In 1930-31, the number rose to 52,418 outdoor patients and 226 indoor patients and in 1940-41, it was 89,761 outdoor and 475 indoor patients. However, these figures do not indicate the exact number of the patients treated because the patients treated at hospitals, which did not keep records, are not included.

### VITAL STATISTICS

The registration of births and deaths was started in 1893<sup>1</sup> at Sirohi, Kalandri, Pindwana, Rohera, Sheoganj, Mandar and Abu Road, but the statistics were not very reliable because the work was not properly organised. Between the years 1893-1900, the annual average number of registered births and deaths in Sirohi town was 75 and 150 respectively. Assuming the population of the town to be 6,207 at that time, the death and birth ratio per mile comes to twenty-four and twelve. During the years 1893 and 1900 the reported number of births was 124 and 62 respectively, whereas the number of deaths during the year 1900 was 490 (a year of famine). The population of the town fell to 5,651 by 1901. However, the death and birth ratio decreased during the next five years when the annual average number was found to be 75 and 73. The actual figures for 1906 were : deaths 81 and births 45.

Adams had made an interesting study of the vital statistics of the Sirohi town (from 1894 to 1997) and found that the births in the last six months of the year generally exceeded those in the first six months, excepting January, which stood high as regards birth rate. When in 1904-05, figures for seven big towns were collected it was found that there were 386 deaths and 381 births, bringing the death rate to 15.1 and birth rate to 15.2.

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1. Adams, however, gives this date as 1894 in his *Western Rajputana States*, p. 204.

The records of deaths and births are kept by the municipal committee in the urban areas and by Panchayat Samitis in the rural areas. According to the report of the Directorate of Medical and Health Services for 1960, in that year the total number of recorded births in the five reporting towns (Pindwara, Abu Road, Mount Abu, Sirohi and Sheoganj) was 479, i. e., a ratio of 11.7 per 1,000 of population while the number of deaths was 343, i. e., a ratio of 8.4 per 1,000 of population. It must be kept in mind that whereas deaths are fairly accurately recorded by adding the figures from burning ghats and burial grounds, those for births are always under-estimated because most of them take place in the home and a large number are not reported. These figures definitely show an increase in population.

#### Causes of Deaths

The deaths registered in 1960 were due to the following causes:

Malaria	..	..	..	..	38
Other fevers	..	..	..	..	51
Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	36
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	8
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	82
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	11
Maternal deaths	..	..	..	..	4
Injuries and suicides	..	..	..	..	7
Other causes	..	..	..	..	106
TOTAL					343

These figures indicate that small-pox has a high incidence in the district. The other causes of deaths are specific fevers, malaria and respiratory diseases.

The following table shows the total number of recorded births and deaths in the urban areas in the recent years:—

Year	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total Deaths	482	1,492	67	271	253	343
Total Births	760	2,424	77	404	539	479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Death rate per thousand	3.0	7.5	10.3	3.6	6.1	8.4
Birth rate per thousand	6.0	12.3	11.8	5.4	13.1	11.7

**Longevity**

From a sample survey conducted in 1951, it was found that, out of 2,89,791 persons, 33.2 % were under the age of 15 years, 24.2 % were between the age group of 15 to 34, 15.4 % between the age group of 35 to 54 and 9.2 were above the age of 55 years. The big drop after 55 years shows that the expectation of life is rather low.

**COMMON DISEASES**

The common diseases in the district are: tuberculosis, avitaminosis, anaemia, guineaworm, urinary stone, malaria, and dysentery. Major K. D. Erskine remarks: "Dysentery and diarrhoea are not uncommon between September and November and among other ailments may be mentioned pneumonia, rheumatism, guineaworm, enlargement of spleen, ulcers and abscesses". The number of persons suffering from these diseases during the year 1955-56 and 1960-61 in the district are shown as under:—

	<u>1955-56</u>	<u>1960-61</u>
Tuberculosis	641	968
Avitaminosis	1,792	1,654
Anaemia	1,229	2,135
Guinea-worm	225	123
Urinary stone	284	696
Malaria	14,311	772
Dysentery	4,224	5,021

From the above statement it may be seen that while there is considerable decrease in the cases of malaria and guinea-worm, there is sizeable increase in other diseases. This may be ascribed to the merger of Abu area in the district in 1956. Guinea-worm is most prevalent in Rohera village. The decrease in malarial cases is due to an intensive anti-malaria campaign conducted by a malaria eradication unit with headquarters at Jalore.

A Food Inspector, with headquarters at Sirohi, takes samples of food, ghee, sweets, milk etc., to check adulteration. He works under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer at Sirohi.

### **Infirmities**

The number of persons affected with various infirmities, excluding deaf-mutes, fell from 1,294 in 1891 (1,162 blind, 85 insane and 47 lepers) to 161 in 1901 (156 blind, 4 insane and one leper). This enormous decrease of more than 87 per cent was due in part to the famine of 1899-1900 and the diminution in the number of the blind, may perhaps be ascribed to some extent, to the spread of vaccination and the greater readiness of the people to resort to hospital treatment. According to the Census Report of 1951, there were 727 blind (304 males and 423 females), 69 insane (52 males and 17 females), 71 deaf-mutes (26 males and 45 females) and 4 lepers (2 males and 2 females). Thus the number of blind remained the highest.

## **HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES**

### **Hospitals**

There are eight hospitals of the State Government in the district. Of these six are in the urban areas and the rest in the rural areas.

### **Urban Areas**

*Male Hospital, Sirohi.*—This was started as a dispensary in 1868, the building having been constructed in the previous year by the Darbar. In 1897, it shifted to a more spacious

building and came to be known as Crosthwaite Hospital after the name of Robert J. Crosthwaite Agent to the Governor General for Rajputana. This new building initially provided accommodation for 24 indoor patients. New additions and alterations were made during the succeeding years and in 1940-41, four family wards were constructed and a number of new surgical instruments were purchased. To improve the supply of water to the hospital, a well was dug in the year 1944-45.

At present (1960), there are facilities for surgical operations, X-ray and pathological examination. These are done in the pathological laboratory of the hospital. There are seven rooms for use as private wards. Attached to this hospital is an anti-rabic centre under the charge of one of the doctors of the hospital. There are 38 beds, of which 31 are for males and 7 for females. The number includes two beds for T.B. patients. The treatment is free. The sanctioned staff of the hospital in 1960-61 includes two Civil Assistant Surgeons (Class-I), three Civil Assistant Surgeons (Class II), eleven compounders, one midwife, one staff-nurse and eleven class IV servants. The Chief Medical Officer is the in-charge of the hospital.

*Zenana Hospital, Sirohi.*—This hospital was constructed in the memory of late Her Highness Rathodji Shri Gopal Kunwar ba-Sahiba. The building was completed in 1932-33, whereas the hospital actually started functioning in 1933-34 under a qualified lady doctor, with one qualified nurse and several *dais*. In succeeding years, additions and alterations were made to the building. In 1943-44, three family wards were added and in 1945-46, a pump was fitted in the hospital well to facilitate the supply of water. There are 18 beds at present including two beds for T. B. patients. The sanctioned staff of the hospital in 1960-61 is : one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class I), one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), two staff-nurses, one midwife, one compounder and seven class IV staff.

*Adams Memorial Hospital, Mt. Abu.*—The Adams Hospital was opened in the year 1902 in the memory of Lt. Col. Adams. The hospital took the place of the old Rajputana Agency Hospital and charitable

dispensary. The controlling authority till 1947 was the Civil Surgeon, Ajmer and then the Chief Medical Officer of Sirohi till 1953, when it passed over to Bombay State. Since November, 1956 it is under the Chief Medical Officer of the Sirohi district. During the year 1960-61, the sanctioned strength of the staff was : one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class I), one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one staff nurse, one midwife, two compounders and five class IV staff. The hospital provides 18 beds, out of which 12 are for males and the rest for females, including two maternity beds. Facilities like X-ray and pathological laboratory are available. There are two private wards.

*Male Hospital, Sheoganj.*—This dispensary at Sheoganj was opened in 1893 A.D., then known as charitable dispensary. In 1897, 82 operations were performed and 1,903 patients treated at this dispensary. The building being inadequate, it was shifted to a new building in 1899. The successive years showed a rise in the number of patients. In 1910-11, the number of patients treated was 8,602, in 1920-21, it was 6,861, in 1935-36, it rose to 12,189 and in 1940-41 it was 8,595. The recent figures for 1955-56 and 1960-61, were 27,635 and 32,450 patients. The dispensary shifted to a new building in January 1950. At present (1960) the sanctioned strength of staff is one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one nurse-dai, two compounders and three class IV staff. There are nine beds, five for males and the rest for females.

*Zenana Hospital, Sheoganj.*—This dispensary for women started functioning in 1951. The sanctioned staff in 1960 was one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one staff nurse, one midwife, one compounder and four class IV staff. There are eight beds in the dispensary.

*Government Hospital, Pindwara.*—This dispensary was opened in 1943-44, and was shifted to a new building in 1946. In 1943-44, the dispensary treated 7,073 patients and this number rose to 28,797 in 1960-61. The sanctioned staff in 1960-61 consisted of

one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one nurse-dai two compounders and three class IV staff.

### Rural Areas

*Government Hospital, Rohera.*—It was established by the Sirohi State in 1947. At present (1960), it has a sanctioned staff of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one compounder, one dai and three class IV staff. There are six beds, four for males and two for females.

*Government Hospital, Jawal.*—The dispensary started in 1950 by donations. At present there are eight beds, out of which six are for males and two for females. The sanctioned staff in 1960-61 consisted of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one nurse-dai, one compounder and three class IV staff.

### Dispensaries

There are altogether five dispensaries in the district.

*Government Dispensary, Mandar.*—This dispensary was opened in 1921-22 and was shifted to a new building in 1940-41. In the year 1921-22, the dispensary treated a total number of 731 patients and this number rose to 7,894 in 1940-41, whereas in 1960-61, the number is 38,633. The sanctioned staff for the dispensary in 1960-61 consists of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one dai, one compounder and three class IV staff. The dispensary has no bed.

*Anadra Aid Post.*—The dispensary was opened in 1950 by the Government. It has no beds. The sanctioned staff for the year 1960-61 is one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class I), one midwife, two compounders and four class IV staff.



*Government Dispensary, Nadiya.*—This dispensary was recently set up in 1958 and was shifted to a new building in 1960, which was constructed partly by contributions and partly by government. In 1960-61, the sanctioned staff of the dispensary consisted of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one midwife, two compounders and four class IV staff. There is no provision for indoor patients.

*Sildar Dispensary.*—The dispensary was opened in June 1960 and the staff consisted of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one nurse-dai, one compounder and four class IV staff. There is no provision for indoor patients.

*Mobile Dispensary, Sirohi.*—The mobile dispensary started functioning in 1948 to render medical aid in the rural area. It is now attached to the male hospital. The dispensary visits the rural areas periodically and can also be called in an emergency. The staff attached is one compounder, one driver and one cleaner.

Besides the above facilities, the Police lines and Jail are visited periodically by a doctor and a compounder from the male hospital.

#### **Primary Health Centre**

There are three Primary Health Centres in the district at the following places:—

*Kalandri.*—The dispensary set up in July, 1928, was upgraded to a Primary Health Centre in June, 1960. The sanctioned staff in 1960-61 consisted of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), four midwives, one lady health visitor and one compounder. It has six beds and average indoor and out-door attendance in 1960 was 2.5 and 77 respectively.

*Sarupganj.*—This was started in 1960 with a staff of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), four midwives and

one lady health visitor. There are six beds and the average outdoor attendance in 1960 was 124.

**Abu Road.**—The dispensary set up at Abu Road in 1887 and later on known as Sarneshwarji dispensary, was upgraded to a Primary Health Centre in 1958. In 1960-61, the sanctioned staff consisted of one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class I), one Civil Assistant Surgeon (Class II), one lady health visitor, four midwives and one Sanitary Inspector. The average indoor and outdoor attendance in the year 1960-61 was 7.5 and 325 respectively. There is an accommodation for 14 beds.

#### Special Units

There are no mental hospitals and maternity and childwelfare centres in the district. However, the male hospital at Sirohi has two beds for T. B. patients. Also, there are two family planning centres and one anti-rabic centre at the following places—

**Family Planning Centre, Sirohi.**—This is attached to the Zenana Hospital, Sirohi since it started functioning in March, 1959. The lady doctor of the hospital is the in-charge and the other staff consists of a social worker.

**Family Planning Centre, Abu Road.**—This is attached to the Primary Health Centre at Abu Road whose incharge is also the incharge of this centre. Besides him, the staff consists of a social worker.

**Anti-rabic Centre, Sirohi.**—This was started about the year 1933, in Sirohi and was attached to Crosthwaite Hospital now known as Male hospital. One of the doctors of the hospital is incharge of this centre.

Following is the statement of the patients treated in all the above institutions:

Name of Institutions	Total patients treated	
	1955-56	1960-61
1	2	3
Male hospital, Sirohi	47,440	47,505

1

Zenana hospital, Sirohi .. ..	19,342	18,739
A. M. hospital, Mt. Abu .. ..	In Bombay State at the time.	37,504
Rohera dispensary, Rohera .. ..	9,476	10,517
Sheoganj dispensary (for males), Sheoganj .. ..	27,635	32,450
Sheoganj dispensary (for females), Sheoganj .. ..	9,733	10,939
Mandar dispensary, Mandar .. ..	42,679	38,633
Anadra dispensary, Anadra .. ..	11,325	17,308
Jawal dispensary, Jawal .. ..	15,234	24,146
Pindwara dispensary, Pindwara .. ..	18,100	28,797
Nadiya dispensary, Nadiya .. ..	..	12,920
Sildar dispensary, Sildar .. ..	..	10,882
Primary Health Centre, Kalandri .. ..	17,541	19,618
Primary Health Centre, Sarupganj .. ..	..	17,287
Primary Health Centre, Abu Road .. ..	19,287	87,293
Anti-rabic Centre, Sirohi .. ..	..	151
Mobile dispensary, Sirohi .. ..	..	10,121
TOTAL ..		2,37,792 4,24,810

The above figures show that within five years the number of the patients has nearly doubled. This is partly due to increased facilities and partly due to inclusion of Abu area in the district in 1956.

The sanctioned and actual staff in these medical institutions in the year 1955-56 and 1960-61 are shown as below:—

			1955-56		1960-61	
			Sanc- tioned	Actual	Sanc- tioned	Actual
Doctor	..	..	15	14	22	17
Staff Nurse	..	..	3	..	5	2
Midwives		..	..	..	18	4
Nurse-Dai	..	..	2	2	4	2
Compounder	..	..	23	23	33	32
Dai	..	..	3	2	2	..
Lady Health Visitor	..	..	..	..	3	1
TOTAL			46	41	87	58

It is observed that many posts remained unfilled because medical personnel generally, do not find it attractive to work in rural areas. However, the position is expected to improve, when rules making it compulsory for medicos to serve for a certain period in villages are implemented.

All the medical institutions of this district are under the control of a Chief Medical Officer stationed at Sirohi. When the State merged in Rajasthan in 1950, a post of District Medical and Health Officer was created and later converted into that of a Chief Medical Officer in 1953. This post still continues.

**Central Government Institutions**

The railway authorities maintain a hospital at Abu Road for their employees, though others are not turned away. The hospital had started in the closing years of the last century.

There are three wards and each ward has 12 beds. The maternity section has six beds. There is an X-Ray plant, equipments for Infra-red and Ultra-violet rays, and arrangements for S. W. for Diathermy. There is also a pathological laboratory in the hospital. In 1955-56, the staff consisted of six assistant surgeons Grade I, one assistant surgeon Grade II, four nurses, one midwife, one steward, eight members of ministerial staff, six dispensers, six hospital attendants, four ayahs and 18 class IV employees, whereas in 1960-61, the staff consisted of four assistant surgeons Grade I, three nurses, one midwife, one steward, two members of ministerial staff, four dispensers, five hospital attendants, four ayahs and 16 class IV servants.

In July 1958, a mobile dispensary was attached to it, which runs between Abu Road and Marwar junction on alternate days except Sundays.

The controlling authority of the hospital is the Divisional Medical Officer, Western Railways, Ajmer. The number of patients treated in this hospital and the mobile dispensary in the recent years are as under:—

Year	Hospital Mobile dispensary	
1955	30,829	..
1956	27,931	...
1957	31,855	..
1958	35,810	5,314
1959	35,056	9,564
1960	36,850	7,072

*Central Police Training College Hospital, Mount Abu.*—The College has a hospital for its trainees and other staff. The hospital staff consists of one medical officer, one compounder and four nursing orderlies. The following are the figures of attendance in this hospital during the year 1960 (up to November):—

	Trainees	Other staff
New cases (Out-door attendance)	873	3,390
Old cases (Out-door attendance)	1,273	10,355
Indoor patients	38	125

There were 104 cases of X-ray and 27 of screening, 386 cases of Diathermy and Infra-red exposure and 40 cases of operations. Nineteen cases were referred to S. M. S. Hospital, Jaipur for specialists' consultation.

#### Indigenous System of Medicine

Two ayurvedic dispensaries, one at Sildar and other at Sirohi were established in August 1946. Two more, one at Las and the other at Sarupganj were added in February 1948. All these dispensaries were manned by qualified  *vaidyas*  under the control of the Principal Medical Officer, Sirohi. After the merger, control was transferred to the Assistant Director of Aushdhalayas, Udaipur. At present (1960), these are controlled by an Inspector posted at Pali.

The dispensaries at Reodar, Nimbaj and Bharja were established in 1955-56. During the second Plan period nine dispensaries were opened in the district; Dantani(1957-58), Joila (1958-59), Nitoda, Posalia, Mount Abu and Paldi-Sirohi (1959-60), and Nichalgarh, Gole and Mohabatnagar (1960-61). Thus, in 1960, there were a total of sixteen dispensaries in the district. None of these had any bed for indoor patients. Each dispensary is provided with a qualified  *vaidya* . The number of patients treated in these dispensaries during the year 1960-61 were as under:—

Location	Patients treated
Sirohi .. .. .	9,648

Sarupganj	..	..	..	7,590
Sildar	..	..	..	14,895
Reodar	..	..	..	6,303
Nimbaj	..	..	..	6,075
Bharja	..	..	..	7,819
Las	..	..	..	4,413
Mount Abu	..	..	..	10,717
Posalia	..	..	..	14,805
Joila	..	..	..	14,122
Dantani	..	..	..	6,272
Nitoda	..	..	..	4,094
Mohabatnagar	..	..	..	3,815
Paldi-Sirohi	..	..	..	17,218
Gole	..	..	..	2,339
Nichalgarh	..	..	..	639
Total	..	..	..	<u>1,30,764</u>

#### PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

There are in 1960, twelve private medical institutions. Of these, one is an eye hospital and the rest are dispensaries. None of these get any aid from the Government.

*Eye Hospital, Sheoganj.*—The hospital was opened in 1937 with Dr. Arjansingh as the Incharge. In Sirohi district it is the only eye hospital specializing in eye operations and serves people of adjacent districts also. The present staff consists of an incharge, two dressers, a compounder, and a wardman. The hospital can accommodate 50 indoor patients. The daily average number of outdocr patients is 100 whereas the number of average daily indoor patients is 3.3. The total number of operation cases taken up by the hospital since 1937 is 25,759. The figures of some of the years are as under:—

Year	No. of operations
1937 .. ..	24
1940 .. ..	345
1945 .. ..	1,706
1950 .. ..	4,919
1955 .. ..	999
1960 .. ..	912

Most of the cases were of cataract, glaucoma, leucoma and granulation of lids.

*Kalandri Dispensary, Kalandri.*—A *vaidya* is in charge of the dispensary. It was opened in 1950. The staff consists of a *vaidya*, a compounder and a cleaner. It treats nearly 900 patients yearly.

*Shri Jain Sarvajani Aushadhalaya, Rohera.*—It was opened in 1939. Only one *vaidya* with a *farrash* are working in it at present. The approximate number of patients treated in 1960-61 was 16,635.

*Kesrimal Kapurchand Private Dispensary, Barloot.*—It was opened about 30 years back but works only intermittently.

The other dispensaries are, Amar Jyoti Clinic, Sirohi, Jan Sewa Hospital Sheoganj, Lebri Pharmacy Hospital, Abu Road, Memorial Hospital, Abu Road, Janta Hospital, Mandar, Anadra Private Hospital Anadra, Jawal Private Dispensary, Mandwaria Private Dispensary, Mandwaria.

#### Chemists

There are in all 41 chemists; four in Sirohi, three in Pindwara, two in Mandar, one in Anadra, two in Kalandri, one in Jawal, one in Varada, six in Sheoganj, two in Rohera, two in Sarupganj, five in Mt. Abu and 12 in Abu Road. Almost all of these deal in allopathic medicines.

#### RESEARCH CENTRES

There are no research centres in the district. However, there are two training centres for *dais*. On the



RECOMMENDATION OF MAJOR K. H. A. GROSS

recommendation of Major K. H. A. Gross, Administrative Medical Officer for Rajputana, who visited Sirohi in 1941, regular cadres of compounders were sought to be filled by imparting six months' training to candidates getting stipends of Rs. 10/- per month. The scheme failed as no candidate came forward.

At present there are two centres for training the *dais*, one attached to the Zenana Hospital, Sirohi and the other to the Primary Health Centre, Abu Road. The candidates are given a stipend of Rs. 30/- per month during the training period, which lasts for six months.

The centre at Sirohi started in December, 1960. Though there is provision for admission of 30 candidates, only seven were admitted. The centre at Abu Road started in May, 1960 and two candidates were admitted though there is provision for six candidates. Due to backwardness of the area, candidates are not forthcoming for training.

#### SANITATION

During the time of princely State, the towns of Sirohi, Abu Road, Mount Abu, Sheoganj, Pindwara had municipal committees to provide sanitary arrangements. The town of Sirohi had a few masonry drains on an important road leading to the palace. Writing about the sanitation in Sirohi State, Adams remarks, "Sanitation in Sirohi (and Jaisalmer) is still in a very primitive state. Most of the people resort to the jungle for purposes of nature and there is no well-organised sanitary staff, although cleaning-up is done in both capitals. The house-latrines are regularly cleaned by "*Birat*" sweepers, and the streets receive some attention on special occasions. However the burst of the monsoon is too often relied upon to thoroughly clean the streets and lanes. In 1891-92 steps were taken to improve the sanitary arrangements at Sheoganj, on account of the proximity of the Erinpura cantonment, and this town is now fairly clean. The sanitary arrangements of Mount Abu and Abu Road are under well-organised departments..."

The chapter on Local Self-Government describes in detail the activities of the municipalities and Panchayat Samitis which are responsible to make sanitary arrangements in the urban and rural areas, respectively. However,

the main activities may be summarised here. Sanitary inspectors are employed by the municipal committees who look after the general cleanliness of the towns. Streets and lanes are regularly cleaned by the scavengers and the slum is carried away from the town by the conservancy trucks. Urinals are available on the main roads for the use of the public. Basement type of latrines are provided to the public though at Mount Abu, there are a few flush latrines as well.

*Pacca* (uncovered) and *Kachha* drains exist at Mount Abu, Abu Road, Sirohi and Sheoganj towns. Underground drains are nowhere found in the district.

#### Special Schemes

*Anti-Malarial Measures.*—This district was not covered by the National Malaria Control Programme.

Organised and intensive measures for eradicating malaria were taken with the introduction of Malaria Eradication Programme for the first time in 1958-59. This programme was divided into two phases viz., attack phase, under which spraying was done almost in all the villages and towns of this district, twice between May-October 1959 and twice again between May to October, 1960 by the Sirohi sub-unit except in Sheoganj tahsil, which was covered by Jalore sub-unit; and the surveillance phase, under which blood smears of all the fever cases were examined. The results of such examinations carried out are given below:—

Year	Villages	Spleen Survey		Parasite Survey		Parasite Index
		No. examined	Spleen index	No. examined	No. positive.	
1958-59	47	2,075	2.2 %	..	..	..
1959-60	64	6,123	0.55%	3,071	..	..

#### Vaccination

Vaccination was started in 1859 at Abu and Anadra, where 1,500 to 2,000 persons were successfully vaccinated.

With a view to extend the operations to other areas of the State, a second vaccinator was employed in 1873 and a third in 1891 and by 1893 the number increased to five. The Thakur of Nibaj also employed a vaccinator in his Jagir villages. The number of persons vaccinated was 1,372 in 1881, 5,450 in 1891 and 3,811 in 1901.

In 1901 the State was divided into five circles for vaccination purposes. The Residency Surgeon, Western Rajputana States, regularly superintended the work. Arm-to-arm vaccination, which was much practised, had been supplanted by buffaloe lymph. By 1910-11, Sheoganj and Sirohi dispensaries also started vaccination work. Vaccination of children was made compulsory by an Act passed in 1945. After the merger, four vaccinators worked under a Health Inspector posted in the district. After 1st November 1959, the vaccinators of the Health department were transferred to panchayat samitis. The Chief Medical Officer renders technical advice to the vaccinators, who number five—one in each panchayat samiti.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated during the year 1960 in rural areas of the district—

Panchayat Samiti	Primary vaccination	Re-vaccination	Total
Sirohi ..	1,862	3,568	5,430
Sheoganj ..	2,087	2,295	4,382
Abu Road ..	751	2,323	3,074
Pindwara ..	886	2,560	3,446
Reodar ..	163	47	210

In the urban areas, each municipality has one vaccinator. A total of 5,242 vaccinations were done in 1960, of these 1,174 were primary vaccinations and 4,068 were re-vaccinations.

The B.C.G. Scheme was introduced in the district in May 1958. Two teams consisting of one team leader (Medical Officer), 12 technicians, 4 peons, two vehicles with 2 drivers were deputed to work in the district. During this period 79,451 persons were tested and 22,997 vaccinated.

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

The welfare activities in the district can be divided in the following way:—

1. Welfare work done by the Government:
  - (i) Labour welfare;
  - (ii) Welfare activities by the social welfare department for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
2. Welfare work done by the voluntary or semi-voluntary welfare organisations. (Details are given in Chapter XVIII).

#### **Labour Welfare**

Due to poor industrialisation, the industrial labour was insignificant to attract the attention of the State to their welfare. Therefore, nothing seems to have been done in the district for the labour welfare so far. The district is considered, even today, as one of the backward areas of the State. There are hardly any industries worth mentioning. The majority of the employers are contractors who employ labour seasonally and turn them out after the assignment is over. As such the employment is only unstable. The labourers in the district do not have any organisation in the form of union, or anything like it, which could compel the employers to provide better wages and working conditions. Due to this weak bargaining position, they have to depend on the mercy of the employers. There is no welfare centre or institution for their benefit. Little can be expected in the field until there is rapid industrialisation in the district. The protection benefits available to the labour under the various labour legislations, of course, come to them to the

extent they are covered by such legislation. Currently, the Labour Welfare Officer, with his headquarters at Jodhpur, also looks after the welfare of the labour in the district.

### Prohibition

About the consumption of opium, liquor and drugs in the area, Erskine writes, "the poppy is hardly cultivated at all, and only for medicinal purposes, but a good deal of opium is imported from outside (chiefly Kota and Malwa) for local consumption. Import, export and transit duties are levied the rate per maund being Rs. 200/-, Rs. 10/- and Rs. 5/- respectively—and brings in about Rs. 5,500 a year, but this sum is included among the receipts of the customs department. The opium revenue proper is derived from licence fees taken from venders of the drug, and amounts to somewhat less than Rs. 500 yearly, there were 114 licenced shops in 1904-05, 117 in 1905-06, and as many as 200 in 1906-07. Under rules issued in 1902, no opium can be imported into, exported from, or conveyed within the State without a pass or permit, but a private individual is allowed to possess and carry up to ten tolas for *bonafide* personal use."<sup>1</sup>

About liquor he writes, "country liquor is prepared by distillation from the *mahua* flower, and is largely consumed by Rajputs, Bhils, Minas, Girasias, and almost all the lower castes of agriculturists and artisans. The right of manufacture and sale is leased for a term of years to a contractor, from whom a fixed sum is recovered by instalments; the annual revenue is approximately Rs. 20,000/- and the number of shops increased from sixty-four in 1904-05 to sixty-seven in the following year. The use of imported spirits is practically confined to Abu, Abu Road and Erinpura."<sup>2</sup>

About the drugs he writes, "the drugs derived from the hemp plant, such as *ganja*, *bhang* and *charas* were formerly unknown in the State, and are now sold only at Abu, Abu Road and Sironi where they are consumed almost entirely by foreigners. All are of course imported; there are four shops and the licence fees yield about Rs. 400 a year."<sup>3</sup>

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1. Erskine, K.D., A Gazetteer of the Sirohi State, pp. 277-278.

2. *Ibid*, p. 278.

3. *Ibid*, p. 278.

The distilleries were under the supervision of Inspectors recruited for this purpose. The depots were under the supervision of *Darogas*. The old outstill system of manufacturing liquor came to an end in the beginning of the year 1909 when the Madras system was introduced. Previous to the introduction of the Madras system in the State, the monopoly to manufacture and sell liquor at one or more outstills was formed out by public auction for each *pargana* separately and given to the highest bidder who was usually a *Kalal* or professional distiller. This private manufacture of liquor gave rise to a good many abuses and there was no check whatever on the growing drinking-habit of the people. To put an end to this evil, to stop the private manufacture of liquor and to ensure its unadulterated distillation, His Highness on the advice of the then Resident, Western Rajputana States and of the Excise Commissioner for Central India, gave assent to the introduction of the Madras system in the State and ordered that all private manufacture and sale of liquor should be prohibited and held penal.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, the Sirohi Excise Act containing Rules and Regulations on *Abkari*, opium and hemp drugs was accordingly passed into law during the year 1908-09. Accordingly, liquor was manufactured only in the State distillery at Pindwara and Central Distillery at the capital. All private stills were closed from the 1st of January, 1909 in the Pindwara, Rohera, Bhakar, Khuni, Sheoganj, Jhora and Magra *parganas*, while those in Pamera, and Mandar were closed in May, 1907 when licenses to sell liquor were introduced.<sup>2</sup>

During the year 1908-09, the number of liquor shops in the State was 54. None but the licence-holders could take liquor from the State warehouse at Sirohi and the Pindwara distillery. The right of private manufacture of liquor for personal consumption was granted to a limited number of jagirdars only, while petty jagirdars were given a fixed annual money payment as compensation. The quantity of liquor that the jagirdars could manufacture was also fixed. Importation of *mahua* flower into the State was prohibited, except by the Excise Department. The jagirdars had to buy *mahua* flowers from the Superintendent of Excise or K.B. Franji, the Contractor.<sup>3</sup>

1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1908-09, p. 9.

2. *Ibid*, p. 9.

3. *Ibid*, pp. 9-10.

During 1918-19, the number of the licence venders for liquor was 75 (it includes 4 licences for selling foreign liquor), and for hemp drugs 68. 1,14,496 gallons of liquor was consumed during the year 1918-19<sup>1</sup>. The consumption figures for the drugs are given in the following table:—

	<i>Md.</i>	<i>Seer</i>	<i>Chhataks</i>
<i>Ganja</i>	10	5	8
<i>Bhang</i>	2	11	..
<i>Charas</i>	1	11	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>

During the year 1929-30, the total quantity of liquor distilled (60 U.P.) was 52,968 gallons. The average consumption of liquor per head of population was 1-13 bottles as against 1-11 in the preceding year i.e., 1928-29. In 1929-30, there was one Central distillery at Abu Road, with 3 depots, at Sirohi, Pindwara and Reodar. The work of the Excise Department was divided into four circles, the depots being in charge of *Darogas* and the Central distillery under an Inspector assisted by a *Daroga*. The number of foreign and country liquor shops was 6 and 83 respectively while that for the sale of methylated spirit was one. The number of the shops selling drugs was 12.<sup>2</sup>

Pseudo-foreign liquor was introduced in the State in January, 1935. The number of shops selling foreign liquor was 12 during the year 1938.<sup>3</sup>

Till 14th Feb., 1941, the distillation was conducted by the State departmentally. This system was not in conformity with the Madras system and the past experience had shown that it was open to abuses, such as corruption and adulteration, entailing considerable loss to the State revenue. Departmental distillation was, therefore, stopped and was auctioned out at fixed conditions to Messers Habirshah Hormarji and Sons of Rajpipla for a period of 5 years with effect from 15th Feb., 1941.<sup>4</sup>

1. Administration Report of the Sirohi State 1918-19, pp. 18-19.

2. *Ibid.* 1929-30, pp. 14-15.

3. *Ibid.* 1938, p. 10.

4. *Ibid.*, 1941, p. 43.



Total receipts of the Excise Department during the year 1942-43 was Rs. 3,27,594/-. This income was found to be much more than in any of the previous years.<sup>1</sup>

In 1945-46, there was a State distillery at Abu Road and five bonded warehouses at Sirohi, Pindwara, Abu Road, Baldi and Sheoganj. Distillation was conducted by a contractor who manufactured and supplied country liquor at Rs. 4/- per L.P. gallon, Rum at Rs. 7/8/- per gallon, and *Massala* Rs. 6/8/- L.P. per gallon. The basis for distillation was *mahua* flowers for the plain liquor and date palms for *Massala* and rum liquors.

There were 90 shops for selling country liquor while for pseudo-foreign liquors 52 and methyated sprit 17. The various kinds of liquors distilled were rum, aniseed, rose, ginger, orange and cardimun and their collective consumption was 4,087 gallons. The income derived there from was Rs. 66,943/-<sup>2</sup>. During the same year (1945-46) 25 mds. and 20 seers of opium was consumed which gave a net profit of Rs. 91,193. The number of licence-holders was 47. In 1945-46, 12 mds. and 19 seers of *Bhang* and 27 seers and 13 seers of *Ganja*, were consumed which gave a profit of Rs. 12,269/- to the State.

Abu Road tahsil area of the district is Dry-Area prohibition is in force there. Rest of the district is "Free-Area"-prohibition is not in force there. Prohibition in Abu Road tahsil, which was in the then Bomlay State, was in force even before the transfer of this area to the district in November, 1956. It had been declared dry area under the Bombay Prohibition Act of 1949. It prohibits and penalizes manufacturing, sale, import, export, and possession of liquor, and allowing one's premises to be used for the above purposes.

In addition to the measures which empower the police and the staff of the Excise Department to arrest the offenders and to produce them before a court of law, a number of other steps for restricting the sale of liquor and other intoxicants and for educating the people to abandon their use, were taken

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Administration Report of the Sirohi State, 1941-43 p. 89.

*Ibid.* 1945-46 p. 45.

*Ibid.* 1945-46 pp. 45-46.

*Ibid.*, pp. 46-47.

by the administration in other areas, simultaneously. Certain days such as Republic Day, Independence Day, Harijan Day, Gandhi Jayanti and some other important religious festival days were declared Dry Days when consumption of liquor was prohibited during working hours in the day.

The Excise department of the district is supervised by the Assistant Commissioner, Sirohi and Jalore, headquartered at Sirohi. 57 cases during the year 1957-58, 35 cases during the year 1958-59, 26 cases during the year 1959-60 and 10 cases during the year 1960-61 were registered in the office of the Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation, Sirohi for contravention of the prohibition laws under the Bombay Prohibition Act of 1949.

There are 3 shops in the district which sell Indian manufactured foreign liquor while 32 shops sell country liquor. The number of the licensed shops for the sale of opium and *Bhang* are 8 and 11 respectively. The following table shows the extent of the consumption of the intoxicants in the district from 1956-57 to 1960-61:--

Year	Indian made foreign liquor B. G. Gallons	Country liquor in L. P. Gallons	<i>Opium</i> (In Mds., seers and chhattaks)	<i>Bhang</i>	<i>Ganja</i>
1956-57	607	11,985	7-7-0	35-4-0	1-4-6
1957-58	398	11,751	3-12-0	35-4-0	14-10
1958-59	528	13,101	2-36-0	21-26-0	0-9-12
1959-60	528	12,947	0-18-5	46-5-0	..
1960-61	536	9,470	0-7-1	63-35-0	..

While the consumption of Indian made foreign liquor had remained more or less steady that of country liquor in 1960-61 has decreased considerably in comparison to the consumption in 1956-57. The use of *Ganja* and *Charas* is totally prohibited and not allowed even on medical grounds. The Consumption of *Bhang* has increased while that of opium has decreased.

**Social Welfare Department**

Social welfare activities among the backward classes are being looked after by the Social Welfare Department. There is one Social Welfare Officer with his headquarter at Sirohi, who supervises such activities for Sirohi and Jalore districts. His office was established in the year 1960. His organisation consists of one Inspector each for Jalore and Sirohi districts, two U. D. Cs., two L. D. Cs. and two Class IV servants. Total population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the district according to 1961 Census, is 67,113 and 74,087 respectively which together, forms nearly 48 per cent of the total population of the district. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population is mainly concentrated in the Abu Road, Pindwara and Reodar tahsils. According to a survey conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Industrial Surveys, Government of Rajasthan Jaipur, in Abu Road tahsil, out of the 81 populated villages, 56 are those with 50% and over of Scheduled Tribe population, and in the Pindwara tahsil out of 91 villages, 33 have a majority of tribal population. Generally speaking, Bhils Minas and Girasia are the three main Scheduled Tribes of the district. According to the Presidential Order of 1956, Bhils, Bhil Minas, Damer, Damaria, Girasia, Rajset Gabria, Minas and Seria Scharia are the Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan. Among these, according to the estimate of the Social Welfare Department, Bhils, Minas and Girasia are in majority in the district. The Presidential Order lists the Scheduled Tribes in the Abu Road *talluka* as below:—

*Scheduled Tribes*

1. Barda.
2. Bavacha of Bamcha.
3. Bhil, including Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri-Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhitala, Pawara, Vasava and Vasave.
4. Chodhara.
5. Dhanka, including Tadve, Tetaria and Valvi.
6. Dhodia.
7. Dubla, including Talavia or Halpati.
8. Gamit or Gamata or Gavit, including Mavchi, Padvi, Vasava, Vasave and Valvi.
9. Gond or Rajgond.
10. Kathodi or Katkari, including Dhor Kathodia or Dhor Katkari and Son Katkari.

11. Kokni, Kokna, Kukna,
12. Koli, Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha or Kolgha.
13. Naikda or Nayaka including Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka and Nana Nayaka.
14. Pardhi, including Advichincher and Phanse Pardhi.
15. Patelia.
16. Pomla.
17. Rathawa.
18. Varli.
19. Vitolia, Kotwalia or Barodia.

According to the same Presidential Order the list of the Scheduled Castes in the district, is as given below:—

1. Ager.
2. Bakad or Ban't.
3. Bhambi, Bhambli, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar Haralayya, Harali, Khalsa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Talegu Mochti, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit or Sangar.
4. Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi Malkana, Halal-khor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar or Zadmalli.
5. Chelvadi or Channayya.
6. Chenna Dasar or Holaya Dasar.
7. Dhor Kakkayya or Kankayya.
8. Garoda or Caro.
9. Halleer.
10. Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar or Halasvar.
11. Holar or Valhar.
12. Holaya or Holer.
13. Bingader.
14. Mahar, Taral, or Dhegu Megu.
15. Mahayavanshi, Bheq, Vankar or Maru Vanka.
16. Mang. Matang or Minimadig.
17. Mang-Garudi.
18. Meghval or Menghvar.
19. Mukri.
20. Nadia or Hadi.
21. Pasi.
22. Shenva, Chenva, Sedma, or Ravat.
23. Tirgar or Tirbanda.
24. Turi.

The *Darbar* opened schools from time to time, to encourage education among the Girasias. As early as 1930, there were such schools at Siwana, Surpagla, Kin, Mungthala and Bhilan. The last school was closed the same year. With the same object in view, scholarships and other concessions were granted to them. The scholarships were of three types, (1) scholarships for higher education and professional training which ranged from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 75/- per candidate per month, (2) scholarships for the needy students, and (3) scholarships for oriental studies especially for Sanskrit. No tuition fee was levied in rural schools and education for girls was free. Even in the urban areas the children of sweepers were exempted from school fees in 1941. In 1946 a *Harijan Pathshala* (Primary school) was opened at Sirohi to give additional facilities to the *Harijans*.

As stated earlier, the Social Welfare Department is looking after the welfare activities for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in the district. An account of the work done by this department is given below:—

1. *Hostel*.—The department is running a hostel at Sirohi. This hostel was established in the year 1954-55. Sanctioned strength of the students in the hostel is 25. This was raised to 40 in the year 1956-57. Besides the hostel Superintendent and three class IV servants, a part-time doctor and a part-time sweeper have also been employed who are paid Rs. 20/- and 10/- respectively. All expenditure connected with living and studies of the inmates is borne by the Government. The statement given below shows the number of boarders since the year 1954-55:—

Sl. No.	Year	No. of students	
		Admitted	Successful
1.	1954-55	6	4
2.	1955-56	10	10
3.	1956-57	33	30
4.	1957-58	41	35
5.	1958-59	35	34
6.	1959-60	40	35
7.	1960-61	40	39

2. *Ashram School*.—An Ashram school at Nichalgarh is managed by the social welfare department. Formerly it was run by the Bhil Seva Mandal, Derhod. On the merger of the Abu Taluka in Rajasthan, this hostel was transferred to the social welfare department. Apart from providing educational, boarding and lodging facilities to the boarders, modern methods of agriculture are taught to them. An agriculture inspector has been posted for this purpose in the school. In addition, there is one teacher and five class IV employees on its staff.

3. *Social Education Centre*.—The social welfare department runs a full-time and a part-time social education centre for the Scheduled tribes at Mount Abu and Sirohi respectively, where besides social education, vocational training is imparted. The purpose of the social education centres is to bring about change in the way of living and thinking of the tribal people according to their genius.

Under the above scheme, a training-cum-production centre was established at Abu Road in order to impart vocational training to the students. The successful trainees get awards of Rs. 200/-. An instructor appointed by the department imparts this training. The sanctioned strength of this centre is 25 persons.

Another training-cum-production centre, like the one stated above, is functioning at Sirohi under the welfare scheme for the Scheduled Castes.

4. *Sanskar Kendras*.—Two part-time *sanskar kendras*, one for males and other for females, are functioning at Sirohi proper. Part-time wardens are paid a fixed allowance of Rs. 20/- p. m. The main aims of these *kendras* are to inculcate good habits,

and civic sense amongst these people, to improve their standard of living and to effect improvement in their *sanskars*.

Medical facilities exist at a dispensary opened by the Social Welfare Department at Bhula village, which would be transferred to the *Ayurvedic* department in near future.

5. *Scholarships*.—The students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are exempted from paying tuition fees. Besides this, scholarships are also awarded to them. During the year 1960-61, the Social Welfare Department gave scholarships to the students of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes through the Panchayat Samities, the details of which are given below:—

		Scheduled Tribes	Scheduled Castes
		Rs.	Rs.
1.	Pindwara ..	1,550	400
2.	Sirohi ..	1,250	1,000
3.	Reodar ..	1,250	400
4.	Abu Road ..	1,550	700

6. *Other aids*.—Grant-in-aid for the construction of houses and wells and subsidy to purchase bullocks, agricultural implements and seeds etc., is given by the department. Aid for conversion of step wells into draw wells is also given.

The statement below shows Panchayat Samiti-wise allotment of funds (in rupees) for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in the district for the year 1960-61:—

Type of scheme	Sirohi	Pindwara	Abu Road	Sheoganj	Reodar	Grand total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Non-plan						
(a) Scheduled Tribes	2,540	3,420	2,815	..	..	8,805
(b) Scheduled Castes	..	..	..	..	..	..

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>2. Plan</b>							
(a) Scheduled Tribes	3,250	6,880	16,255	1,550	8,250	31,185	
(b) Scheduled Castes	1,000	400	700	1,500	1,400	5,000	
Centrally sponsored							
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.	2,500	4,000	18,000	3,000	3,750	31,250	
Total	9,290	14,700	37,800	6,050	8,400	76,240	

7. *Legal aid.*—Legal aid is given to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in civil and revenue cases including execution proceedings or other proceedings in which the applicant is a party.

8. *Education.*—There is no age limit for the admission of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in the educational institutions.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

#### INTRODUCTION

The Administration Reports of Sirohi State record that Sirohi was comparatively a peaceful State. Only in the beginning of the present century, there were some disputes between the Jagirdars and the State. The first political agitation was organised by Shri Moti Lal Tejawat in the year 1922. Shri Tejawat belonged to the former Mewar State. He organized the Bhils and Girasias of the State to the extent that the State and the Jagirdars got alarmed. The Jagirdars in order to smash the organization, set to fire four villages, namely, Bhula, Valoria, Siwaya and one village more. However, all these villages were resettled later on. After this event, there was once again peace in the State.

Another landmark in the history of Sirohi State was the Elopement of a beautiful ghanchi girl. This event in the Bombay press came to be known as *Dharma Prakaran*-religious issue. It played a significant role in organising the people. The saviours of this girl were the founders of Praja Mandal in the Sirohi State.

Prior to the formation of the nominated Panchayats, the Caste Panchayats had a strong hold in the life of the people of the State, and even after the formation of the nominated Panchayats, the caste panchayats continued to be as strong as ever until recently. The nominated Panchayats came into being under the Village Panchayats Act and Rules, 1940-41. The objective of these panchayats was to develop a spirit of public service in the rural population and to avoid unnecessary expenditure to them on petty litigation.

Sirohi is that part of Rajasthan which shares a number of things in common with Rajasthan and Gujrat in matters

of language, dress, food-habits, customs, religion etc. A few people belonging to the Sirohi State have permanently settled in big cities like Bombay and Ahmedabad for business purposes. At the time of the *Dharma Prakaran*, a few elites of Sirohi in Bombay founded the Praja Mandal for the Sirohi State in the year 1936. Shri Gokul Bhai Bhatt was the first President of the Sirohi State Praja Mandal. Other important workers were sarvashri Yirdi Shankar Trivedi, Bhim Shankar Sharma and Laxmi Narayan. Initially the workers tried to organize the people of the Sirohi State who were in Bombay, and gave expression to their thoughts in press.

The first meeting inside the State was held by the Praja Mandal in the year 1938 in the month of June at Azad Maidan, Sirohi (Propor) with an estimated audience of 800. The purpose of this meeting was to tell the people about *Swaraja* (self-rule). However, the purpose of the meeting was kept confidential till the last. Cunningly a Rao Raja was requested to preside over the meeting. The demand for self-rule was explained to the people at this public meeting. The other meeting was held again in the year 1938 in accordance with the directions of Haripur Congress Session in which Mahatma Gandhi had emphasized the need for constructive work in the States.

Within a few months only the intentions of the Praja Mandal workers were known to the rulers and the jagirdars. Sarvashri Gokul Bhai Bhatt, Pukh Raj Singhi, Dhan Raj Katar, Tara Chand Doshi, Baboo Lal Shah, Dharam Chand Surana, K.C. Shah and Roop Raj Singhi were charged with spreading unrest in the rural areas and were arrested on 22nd January, 1941. These were the first arrests in the State and this agitation of a few people grew into a real mass movement. The office of the Congress to day continues to be at the place where it was opened first.

Though all the active workers were behind the bars, Yet there were good many sympathisers outside also who organised meetings, processions and strikes. On the night of 27th January, after five days of imprisonment of the leaders mentioned above, they were released. While in rail, the workers received a communique from the Central Advisory Committee of the Congress Party to take part in the individual *Satyagraha* Movement launched by Gandhi. However, it could not be properly

worked out. People had, all the same, by now begun to take keen interest in the programme of the Praja Mandal and they were gradually getting organized against the jagirdars. The jagirdars exploited the agriculturists and took more than half of the agricultural produce in the name of *Laag Baag*, *Hasil* and a number of other kinds of *begar*. After great efforts, cash rent for cultivable land was introduced in the year 1945. However, weight *begar* continued in the remote villages until recently. All these public movements were basically for the achievement of responsible government. The State tried its best to suppress the movement.

There was a small organization known as Anop Mandal which played a significant role in the life of the people of the Sirohi State. Anop Mandal was founded by a *Swami*—a saint. *Swamiji* stood for the poor who were exploited by the jagirdars. It appears that the communal troubles which the State had witnessed, were largely because of this Anop Mandal. There were occasions when Hindus had trouble with Mohammadans over the playing of the musical instruments and the Jains with Hindus over the worshipping at a particular temple. Anop Mandal had a few publications full of abusive songs for the Jains which were fairly current at Sirohi, Pali and Jodhpur. If any thing adverse befell the State, the Anop Mandal accused the Jains for it. Once the State had no rains. The followers of the Anop Mandal got an opportunity to criticize the Jains. The followers together went to the Jain *Muni*—sage, who was accidentally at Sirohi at that time and charged that the Jain *Muni* had deliberately kept water hidden in the earthen pot he had. The earthen pot was broken by the crowd, and as chance would have it, the rain followed the next day. Thus the people got convinced that the Jain *Muni* was responsible for the creation of the drought conditions. The Praja Mandal workers tried their best to make right use of Anop Mandal for furtherance of their movement. It was thought that the potentialities of this organization could be used in a slightly different fashion. However, the members of the Anop Mandal could not be persuaded and surprisingly they helped the Jagirdars instead.

In the minds of the Rhuls of the Sirohi State the memories of the Tejawat movement were quite fresh. They had not forgotten the sufferings on that account.

They used to run away whenever they saw a policeman. Gradually they gathered courage and once again started actively participating in the public movement.

In the year 1941, an attempt at setting up Panchayats was made reference to which has already been made in the preceding lines. In 1942, Gokul Bhai Bhatt was arrested in the A.I.C.C. meeting at Bombay. Near about this time, arrests were also made in the Sirohi State.

In the movement of 1942, the State Government followed the policy of prosecution instead of persecution. No large scale movement could be launched in the Sirohi State during the year 1942, but small scale processions were organized and leaflets against the Imperial Government were published. By now Praja Mandal had its branches established at Sirohi, Abu Road, Sheoganj and Roheda. However, arrests were made in Sirohi alone. They were made on the pretext that the agitators had contravened the provisions of the Society Act.

In 1945, Reforms Committee, comprising six members, was set up to suggest the future form and the organization of the Praja Mandal but the recommendations were never implemented.

As a result of the persistent efforts of the Praja Mandal the Agricultural land tax was introduced towards the end of the year 1945. By this time *Sirohi Sandesh* and *Arbud Samachar* also came to be published in the Sirohi State.

After Independence some leaders of the Praja Mandal were included in the cabinet at the State ministry and they continued till the formation of the new State of Rajasthan and a portion with the Bombay State.

### Elections

*Lok Sabha*.—In the 1952 General Elections, Sirohi and Pali districts formed a single parliamentary constituency. In a total electorate of 3,80,210 the number of valid votes cast was 1,59,335 or 41.9 per cent. The seat was won by an independent candidate, Shri Ajit Singh with 99,925 votes. The number of votes secured by other candidates

was : Shri Gokul Bhai Bhatt (Congress) 37,080, Rani Devi Bhargava (Jan Sangh) 11,677 and Shri Dharam Chand (Independent) 10,653.

In the Second General Elections in 1957, the parliamentary constituency for this area was reformed to comprise Sirohi and Jalore districts. In a total electorate of 4,10,988 the number of valid votes cast was 1,38,063 or 33.6 per cent. There were three candidates for the single seat, which was won by Shri Damani Suraj Ratan (Congress) with 64,434 votes. The other candidates were Ajit Singh (Independent) and Bhimraj (Independent) securing 58,572 and 15,057 votes respectively.

In the Third General Elections in 1962 also the district formed part of the Jalore Parliamentary constituency. In a total electorate of 4,44,100 the number of valid votes cast was 1,63,957 or 39.12 per cent. There were six candidates for the seat which was won by the Congress candidate Shri Harish Chandra securing 75,773 votes. All the other candidates were Independents and the votes secured by them were: Shri Babu Lal 30,788, Shri Narpal Singh 23,608, Shri Kheeme Khan 14,028, Shri Chaturbhuj 15,021 and Shri Bhim Chand 4,739.

*Vidhan Sabha.*—In the 1952 State Assembly elections, the district had three constituencies, viz., Bhavri, Sheoganj and Sirohi.

In the Bhavri constituency, which comprised the areas covered by Reodar tahsil and Bhavri police station, the total electorate was 45,390. The number of valid votes cast was 15,083 (33.2 per cent). Two persons contested the seat. Shri Mohabat Singh (Independent) secured 10,236 votes and got elected. The Congress candidate Shri Ravi Shankar secured only 4,347 votes.

The Sheoganj constituency comprised Sheoganj tahsil and Pindwara police station. The total electorate was 44,853, out of which the number of valid votes cast was 16,538 (36.8 per cent). Four persons contested the seat which was won by Shri Arjun Singh (Independent) with 8,597 votes. His closest rival was Shri Devi Chand (Congress) who secured 4,802 votes. The other two candidates were Shri Dunga Ram (Independent) and Shri Rai Chand (Jar

Sangh). They secured 1,872 and 1,267 votes respectively. Both of them lost their security deposits.

The third constituency, Sirohi, comprised the tahsil of Sirohi. The total number of voters was 38,333 and the number of valid votes cast was 17,662 (46.1 per cent). Four persons contested the seat and Shri Jawan Singh (Independent) won it with 10,939 votes. The Congress candidate Shri Duli Chand secured 5,147 votes whereas Shri Rai Chand (Jan Sangh) got 1,019 votes and Shri Rikhab Chand (Independent) only 557 votes. Shri Rai Chand and Shri Rikhab Chand lost their security.

In these assembly elections, there were in all ten candidates for three seats. Independents formed the largest group of candidates (5) followed by Congress (3) and Jan Sangh (2).

*1957 Elections.*—In 1957 elections, the constituencies were rearranged as follows: Sirohi (two seats, of which one was reserved for Scheduled Castes) and Abu (One seat).

In the Sirohi double-member constituency which comprised Sirohi, Sheoganj and Pindwara tahsils, with a total electorate of 96,225, the number of valid votes cast was 72,658 (75.5 per cent). Shri Mohabat Singh (Congress) won the general seat with 21,956 votes and the seat reserved went to Shri Veerka (Independent) who secured 17,382 votes. The other candidate secured 17,191 votes and thus for the reserved seat Shri Tejaram (Congress) lost by a narrow margin. Shri Heer Singh (Ram Rajya Parishad) who contested for the general seat, secured 16,129 votes.

The second constituency, Abu, comprised the tahsils of Reodar and Abu Road. The total voters were 55,393 out of which the number of valid votes cast was 21,965. Two members contested the seat. Shri Dalpat Singh (Independent) won the seat with 11,672 votes defeating his rival Shri Rameshwar (Congress) securing 10,293 votes.

In these elections, the three seats were contested by six candidates, two of whom were Independents, three of the Congress and one of the Ram Rajya Parishad.

During the 1962 elections, the Sirohi double-member constituency was bifurcated into two separate constituencies and Abu remained unchanged. The Sirohi double-member constituency had been bifurcated on the eve of this general election. There were three Assembly Constituencies in the district. They were Sirohi, Pindwara and the Abu constituencies.

The Sirohi constituency, which was reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, extended over Sirohi tahsil and some villages of Sheoganj tahsil. In a total electorate of 50,744, the number of valid votes polled was 13,305 or 28.9 per cent. Shri Dharma Ram (Congress) won the seat with 6,143 votes. The other four candidates were Shri Ota (Independent—757 votes), Shri Lala Ram (Independent—2,803 votes) Shri Dama Ram (Jan Sangh—1,839 votes) and Shri Hira Ram (Ram Rajya Parishad—1,763 votes).

The Pindwara constituency comprised the whole of Pindwara tahsil and those villages of Sheoganj which were not included in Sirohi constituency. The total electorate was 54,230 out of which 17,436 or 33.99 per cent valid votes were polled. There were four candidates for the seat which was won by Shri Ravi Shankar of the Congress with 8,885 votes. The votes secured by other candidates were: Shri Atma Ram (Jan Sangh) 453 Shri Dharm Chand (Independent) 2 434, and Shri Mohan Lal (Independent) 5,664 votes.

In the Abu constituency, which comprised Abu Road and Reodar tahsils, there was a total electorate of 61,722 and the number of valid votes polled was 26,235 or 45.5 per cent. Shri Dalpat Singh (Congress) won the seat with 13,160 votes. The other candidates were Shri Bhanwri Lal (Jan Sangh) 2,405 votes, Shri Bhagwan Das (Independent) 928 votes.

In 1962, the three seats were contested by 13 candidates, of whom six were Independent, three from the Congress, three from Jan Sangh and one from Ram Rajya Parishad.

#### **Political Parties**

Careful examination of the results of the general elections reveals that the active parties in the district are Cong-

ress, Jansangh and Ram Rajya Parishad. Independents have contested all the three elections but they do not have any organization as such. There are no local political parties in the district. The following tables shows the number of seats contested by the different political parties in the three general elections.

### Contestents for the Parliamentary seat

Election year	Seats	Party	Candidates	
			Contested	Elected
1952	1	Congress	1	..
		Jansangh	1	..
		Independent	2	1
1957	1	Congress	1	1
		Independent	2	..
1962	1	Congress	1	1
		Independent	5	..

### Contestents for the Assembly seats

Election year	Seats	Party	Candidates	
			Contested	Elected
1952	3	Congress	3	..
		Jansangh	2	..
		Independent	5	3
1957 (One single-member and one double-member constituency)	3	Congress	3	1
		Ram Rajya Parishad	1	..
		Independent	2	2
1962	3	Congress	3	3
		Jansangh	3	..
		Ram Rajya Parishad	1	..
		Independent	5	..



*Literacy and Elections.*—According to the Census figures of the 1951, only 7 per cent people were literate in the district; and the Census figures for the year 1961 show that 6.23 per cent people more have become literate in the past decade.

The following table shows the increase or decrease in the polling in the three General Elections:—

**Polling in the General Elections**

1952 Votes polled	P. C. of votes polled	Votes polled	1957 P. C. of votes polled	P. C. incre- ase or decrease
65,923	..	94,623	39.9	+44.44

Votes polled	1962 P. C. of votes polled	P. C. of increase or decrease
56,976	38.6	—39.8

It is clear from the table that compared to 1952 elections, a greater percentage of electorate went to the polls in 1957, indicating an improvement in the political consciousness of the people. However, lesser percentage of people went to polls in 1962 elections as compared to the 1957 elections. Therefore, it cannot be said with certainty that there is positive correlation between extent of literacy and polling.

#### **Vote and Women**

Considering the turn-out per cent on the basis of votes polled, 32.7 of the women electorate in the Sirohi district exercised their right of franchise as against 47.5 per cent of men in the second General Elections held in 1957. Similarly, in the Third General Elections held in 1962, the turnout percentage of the women was 28.89 as against 44.4 per cent of men. Separate figures for the male and female

votes polled are not available for the First General Elections. Thus, it seems that there has not come any striking change in the political consciousness of the women in the district.

### Newspapers

No newspaper is published locally, but regional newspapers in Gujarati, Hindi and English, and also some of the all India dailies are sold in Abu Road, Mount Abu and Sirohi, whence copies find their way into the interior. The total circulation of all dailies is probably more than 650. In the interior, the places which are not connected by train, newspapers are delivered two to three days late.

The most popular dailies are the *Rashtra Doot* (Jaipur), *Lokvani* (Jaipur), *Nava Jyoti* (Ajmer), *Hindustan* and *Nav Bharat Times* (Delhi), in Hindi and *Jan Satta*, *Gujrat Samachar*, *Sandesh* (Ahmedabad) in Gujarati. A few copies of such all-India English dailies as the *Hindustan Times*, *Times of India*, *Indian Express*, *Statesman* and *Free Press Journal* are also sold.

The following weekly papers are also fairly popular: *Jagruti* (Bombay), *Rajasthan Shikshak* (Jodhpur), *Yojna* (Delhi), *Saptahik Hindustan*, *Narneet*, *Dharmyug* all in Hindi; *Current*, *Blitz* and *Illustrated Weekly of India* (Bombay) in English. Among other weeklies published from Rajasthan, *Adhikar* (Jaipur) and *Lokmat* (Bikaner) are very popular.

### Voluntary Social Service Organization

1. *Harijan Sevak Sangh*.—The Harijan Sevak Sangh is running a hostel for the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes at Sheoganj in which, besides educational facilities, free boarding and lodging facilities also exist for 25 boys.

2. *Adimjati Sevak Sangh*.—The Adimjati Sevak Sangh is running a hostel for the students of the Scheduled Tribes at Pindwara. The number of the students in the hostel is 25. The boarders of the hostel get free food, books, stationery, light, newspapers and other facilities. Since November, 1959, the Rajasthan Government is giving an aid to the hostel at the rate of Rs. 25/- per boarder per month.

Before this, aid was given at the rate of Rs. 20/- per boarder per month. The Adimjati Sevak Sangh has received aid from the Government of Rajasthan for construction of a hostel building for 50 boarders during the year 1960-61. It is hoped that the hostel building will be completed by 1963. The number of boarders in the year 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 was 20, 20 and 22 respectively.

3. *Social Welfare Board*.—While preparing the first five year plan, the Planning Commission felt that in the field of social welfare the efforts of the Government would not be sufficient and therefore, voluntary organisations should be given aid and encouragement. A High Power Board was established to give financial aid to such voluntary organisations. Social welfare boards were established in different States to help the Central Welfare Board. Accordingly, in 1954, the social welfare board was established in Rajasthan also.

On 1st of June, 1960, a Social Welfare Extension Project was opened at Sirohi proper. It has six centres, namely, Mohabatnagar, Padiv, Kalandari, Mandwaria, Jawal and Krishanganj. There are 13 members of the samiti: 6 males and 7 females. The number of the villages covered by the 6 centres of the project is 89 and the total population 89,120. Six Gram Sevikas and five Balwari Teachers are on the staff. Daily average attendance in the various activities of the project, is as given below:—

Balwari 27, Craft School 11, Social education 19, Cultural activities 32, and Health services 22.

Besides the above activities, monthly meetings of the *Mahila Mandal* are held, cultural programmes are held from time to time, meals and breakfast is distributed and tours of the villages organised.

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## CHAPTER XIX

### PLACES OF INTEREST

#### Abu

A sub-divisional headquarters, known as Mount Abu, is situated at a distance of 18 miles<sup>1</sup> north-west of Abu Road railway station at latitude 24°36' north and longitude 72°43' east.

According to 1951 Census Hand Book of Banaskantha district, the town had an area of 3.5 square miles and a population of 4,439 (2,342 males and 2,097 females) which subsequently rose to 8,076 (4,754 males and 3,322 females) in 1961. The town formed a part of Bombay State from 1950 but was transferred back to Rajasthan on November 1, 1956.

Abu is the only hill resort in Rajasthan and is approachable by a tortuous road from the Abu Road railway station. The actual ascent is marked by sharp turns and deep chasm and gorges, passing through picturesque natural scenery, fringed with trees of primeval forest and rivulets. Major K. D. Erskine, in the Gazetteer of Sirohi State (1906), writes thus about this place : "The natural features are very bold, and the slopes-especially on the western and northern sides—extremely precipitous; on the east and south the outline is more broken by spurs with deep valleys between. The traveller, when ascending the mountain, can hardly fail to be impressed with the grand and beautiful scenery; the gigantic blocks of syenitic rocks, towering along the crest of the hill, are especially striking, being in many cases so weather-worn as to present the most fanciful and weird shapes, while, in others, they appear so slightly balanced as to be in danger of rolling down." Even today the scenery is beautifully contrasting and enchanting. The legend current about the Arbudadesha is narrated in the chapter

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1. Banaskantha District Census Hand Book 1951, p. 127.

on History. Col. Tod claims the discovery of the place as his own.

A number of hotels, rest houses and dak-bungalows exist in the town, a fuller description is given in the chapter on Communication. During the second Five Year Plan, in order to promote tourism in the State, a tourist bureau was set up at Abu in 1958-59 and all enquiries about the places of interest in and around the town, can be made at the office of the Tourist Assistant which is located at the bus stand.

Abu lost some of its glamour after the departure of the British. However, the trek of visitors has continued unabated and in recent years, tourists from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have started visiting the place in increasing numbers. Once the headquarters of the Agent to the Governor General for Rajputana, the town now accommodates some of the important offices of the Government of India. The Central Police Training College, which imparts training to the officers of the Indian Police Service, and the office of the Director, Survey of India for Western Circle are situated in the town.

The town has a Government high school besides the two European schools—Sophia School and Mary School; a municipal committee, a police station, a combined post office and a telephone exchange; a public park and a cinema-hall. A number of nurseries are maintained by private persons and also by the Government of Rajasthan. The place is known for quality honey. Recently a games sanctuary has also been set up by the Forest Department. The important places of interest in and around Abu are described below:

*Nakhi Talao*.—"The beauty of Abu is much enhanced by the *Nakhi Talao*, or lake said to have been excavated by the finger-nails (*nakhi*) of the gods. Tod described it as about four hundred yards in length and the counter part of the lake three miles about Andernach on the Rhine, while Fergusson knew no spot in India so exquisitely beautiful. It is now about half a mile long by a quarter of a mile broad, and is most picturesquely situated between high hills except at the western end, where a view of the plain is obtained

through a gorge. The slopes and ravines in the vicinity are well-wooded, and several rocky islands add to the charm of the scene. The lake is shallow on the eastern side towards the bazar, but is from twenty to thirty feet deep near the dam on the west<sup>1</sup>." Even today, there are a number of rocky islets in the lake, bearing palm trees. On its bank is a well maintained park and receding about 50 yards beyond it, are the cafetaria and *dharamshalas*. A few boats are available on the bank and when one steers away in the lake, the surroundings give a thrilling joy.

*Nun and Toad Rocks.*—Not far from the Nakhi lake are the two rocks called the Nun and the Toad from their resemblance in outline to a veiled woman and an immense toad respectively, the former was struck by lightening in 1890 A. D., and the piece of stone representing the nose was detached.

*Sunset Point.*—A road from the Polo Pavillion leads to this point where hundreds of people witness every evening the marvellous phenomena when the sun appears hanging like a ball before it sets, and it gradually melts away like ice. Recently, pavillions have been built here for the visitors to avoid accidents.

*Arbuda Devi's Temple.*—This can be approached by two different routes—one from Nakhi via Adam Hospital and post office building and then turning northwards. The ascent has 400 well built steps. The other route is a side track intersecting the Delwara road and is very rough, passing through thick trees, and one has to be very careful while balancing on the zig-zag stone slabs. The temple commonly known Adhar Devi and rarely as Arbuda Mata or Ambika—a tutelary goddess of Abu, is a small white temple formed out of a natural cleft on the side of the hill. The shrine lies in the rock below the white temple. Traditionally it is very old, but there is no inscription save one (dated 1575) on the jamb of a door, recording its donation. In the same compound is a temple of goddess Nav Durga, another of god Ganesh and a third of Nilkantha Mahadeo.

*Delwara temples.*—The celebrated Jain temples of Delwara (Devalwara, the place of temples) are about a mile and half from the Nakhi lake, towards Achalgarh. The exterior of these temples is plain, shabby and rather

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1. Gazetteer of Sirohi State by Maj. K.D. Erskine p. 285.

repulsive and the visitor is totally unprepared for the splendour of the interior that awaits him. The main group consists of five temples constructed almost entirely of white marble, but only two—the temple of Vimala Sah and the temple of Vastupala and Tejapala, are of particular interest. The former was built<sup>1</sup> by Vimala Sah, an officer of the Chalukya king Bhima I, the frontal halls were erected in *Vikrami Samvat* 1088 (A.D. 1031), though the sanctum appears to be older than this. The latter belongs to the 13th century, the frontal halls were put up in *Vikrami Samvat* 1287 (1230 A.D.) by the banker Tejapala, the brother of Vastupala who had built the Jain temple at Girnar in Kathiawar.

*Temple of Vimala Sah.*—The temple commonly known as Vimala Vasahi is dedicated to Adinath or Rishabhanatha, the first *tirthankara*. According to traditions, it was erected on the site of a shrine dedicated to *Siva* and the founder purchased the land from the Paramara ruler of the country by covering as much ground as was requisite, with silver coins and paying it as the price. It stands within a quadrangular court and consists of a shrine containing a large brazen image of Adinath preceded in front by a *mandapa* or portico supported on 48 pillars. The eight central pillars form an octagon holding up a dome with its circular rims and richly carved pendant. This is surrounded by a cloister of image-cellas aligned round the enclosing wall. These image-cellas have statues of *tirthankaras*, all of which are of one pattern and stereotyped cast of features, and it is only by the symbol beneath them that one can be distinguished from the other except in the case of Parasnath who is always conspicuous by the serpent's multicephalous hood above him. Amba Devi's shrine in the south-west is said to be older than the temple itself. The cell in which the Devi's image was placed is trifurcated in recent years, two of these cells now contain the images of *tirthankaras*. The painted representation of *Bhairon* outside the cell of the goddess, referred to by Major K.D. Erskine in his *Gazetteer of Sirohi*, holding a freshly-severed head in his hand, his dog waiting to catch the falling drops of blood,

1. Erskine gives this date as 1032 A.D. He also remarks that Vimala Sah who was a Mahajan of the Porwal division amassed great wealth chiefly by harbouring dacoits who paid him heavily for the refuge he afforded them. See Major K.D. Erskine's *Gazetteer of Sirohi State*, p. 292.

has been removed to another courtyard now. At the entrance on the right side, is a *hathi-khana* or elephant-room, in the doorway of which stands a life-size equestrian statue of Vimla Sah. Round the room are ten marble elephants six of which have riders.

*Temple of Vastupala and Tejpalā.*—This temple, commonly known as Luna Vasahi, is dedicated to Neminatha, the twenty second *tirthankara*. The sanctuary in black stone appears to have been built earlier than other members of the complex which are built of white marble. The pattern followed in the arrangement of the sanctum as well as the statues and the decoration, is almost like that of the Vimla Sah's temple. Comparing these two temples, Col. James Tod has shown a clear preference for Luna Vasahi for its majestic simplicity and lofty fluted columns sustaining the *mandap*. The dome stands on eight pillars, and is a magnificent piece of work, having a pendant, cylindrical in form and about three feet in length.

On the outer edge of the dome and arranged in a circle are sixteen female bracket figures, representing the goddesses known as the *Vidya-devīs*. Round the courtyard are thirty-nine cells containing one or more images, and some of the ceilings of the porches in front are elaborately carved.

This temple also has its elephant-room which is much larger, and is enclosed by a pierced screen of open tracery. Inside the room and facing the screen are ten marble elephants which, with their trappings, knitted ropes, etc., have been sculptured with exquisite care. The riders have now disappeared, but the slabs behind the elephants tell us who they originally were. They indicate that they were Vastupala with his two wives, Lalita Devi and Viruta Devi, and Tejpalā with his wife Anupma.

*Other Jain temples at Delwara.*—Of the remaining three Jain temples, one which is outside the group across the road, is not worth visiting. Of the other two, one is dedicated to Parasnath and is called the *Chaumukha* (or four faced) because it has four images of the god facing the four points of the compass; the tessellated pavement is worth of notice, the domes, though plain, are good, and the general effect is fine. The other is sacred to Adinath, and the pillars of its portico are ornamented with the well-known bell and chain



decoration, so common in Jain and Buddhist structures. There were originally three cells in the enclosure; two still stand, but only the threshold of the third (on the north-eastern side) remains. The doorway of the central cell is covered with figures of the tutelary deities (*Sasnadevi*) of the *tirthankaras*, and inside the shrine are two images of Adinath and one of Parasnath. Both these temples are said to be about four hundred years old.

Between V. S. 2006 and 2010, (1949 A. D.-1953 A. D.) these temples were repaired and a few new constructions were made in Vimal Sah's temple (serial 18 to 27 in the corridor) and in Lunavasahi (serial 23 to 30 in the corridors). The expenditure incurred is as below:

				Rs.
Vimalvasahi	..	..	..	7,33,519
Lunavasahi	..	..	..	5,60,135
Parasnath	..	..	..	61,021
Rishabhdeo	..	..	..	25,675
Mahavir Swami	..	..	..	2,401
TOTAL ..				13.82.751

It was calculated that an average of 75 masons worked for 4,244 days. More details on the architecture of these temples are given in chapter on History.

*Hindu temples at Delwara.*—At the back of the group of the Jain temples at Delwara, are the remains of old Hindu temples. The spot is locally known as *Balam Rasiya*, a corruption of Valmiki Rishi (the sage Valmiki), of whom there is a large figure under a ruined canopy by the side of an image of the elephant-headed god, Ganesh. The temple facing them contains a figure of a goddess with a small image of a Rishi looking up at her. The story runs that Valmiki, while living here, fell in love with a girl and wished to marry

her; the latter's mother after holding out for a long time, eventually consented to the match on the condition that he made a good road down the hill side to the plains between sunset and cock-crow. The sage set about his task and had nearly completed it with plenty of time to spare, when the old lady, who had been watching him throughout and could no longer bear the strain, imitated the call of a cock. Valmiki, thinking he had failed, returned homewards and reached his hut just at dawn; he soon discovered the trick that had been played upon him and, in his wrath, cursed both mother and daughter who were promptly turned into stone. The mother he broke in pieces, and piled a heap of rocks over the fragments; the girl, whom his hasty curse had destroyed, he placed in the shrine which his statue now faces, and she is called *Kunwari Kanya* (the unwedded maid). Here people used to come in pilgrimage and, before worshipping, heaped stones on the mother's resting place cursing her as a liar and a traitor to her word. The shrine in which the girl's statue stands is curious and evidently old. The temple to the west contains a figure of Vishnu.

*Achalgarh*.—About three miles north-east of Delwara are the forts of Achalgarh, the old stronghold of the Paramaras of Chandravati and Abu, and the famous temple of Achaleshwar. The site can be approached by a motorable road on which regular bus service is available. Just before the temple, is a water reservoir known as *Mandakini-kund*<sup>1</sup>, the water of which was supposed to be as holy as that of the Ganges. Around its margin are the effigies of Adipal and the buffaloes which are all in utter ruin. The bed of the tank is dry. It is said that in olden days, the reservoir used to be kept full of ghi (clarified butter), which three *Daityas* (demons), in the shape of buffaloes, regularly devoured at night. Adipal Paramara slew them all—with one bolt and to commemorate this deed, his statue was erected in marble, with the bow just slackened from a shot. To the south of the tank is an enclosure containing several

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1. Erskine mentions that the Mandakini is strictly a branch of the Ganges, the word is locally pronounced Mandagni, and this perhaps caused T. d to confuse this reservoir with the real Agnikund (near Gao Mukh, south of the civil station), and to jump to the conclusion that the former, and not the latter, was the place where the fire-born Rajputs are supposed to have been brought into existence.

shrines, notably that of Achaleshwar in the centre. It faces west and is a modern looking structure with portions of an old temple built into it. An object of great sanctity is the toe-nail of the god Siva pointed out in a hole into which no one is allowed to put his hand. The priest attending it, is of the view that the hole is fathomless. In front of the temple is a big brass *Nandi* (the bull on which Siva rides), and according to the inscription on the pedestal, was made in 1408 by order of "the Rawal" (probably Rao Sobha or Sheo Bhan). At one side of the central shrine is the *toran* or arch, from which scales used to be suspended and where the old chiefs of Sirohi were formerly weighed against gold.

Other images placed around are those of Dwarkadhees, Koteswar Mahadeo, Indreshwar Mahadeo, Papkanteswar Mahadeo, Somnath Mahadeo, Markundeshwar Mahadeo, Narbadeshwar Mahadeo, Omkareshwar Mahadeo, Chamunda Devi, Shankhateswar Mahadeo, Badri Kedarnath, Jagannath Bhagwan, Mira Bai, Gajanand Mahadeo, Nilkanth Mahadeo, Nava Grahadeo, Achaleshwar Mahadeo and Apeshwar Mahadeo.

South of the Achaleshwar temples is a hill which is approachable by a steep rough road of stone slabs. On its summit is the ancient fort of Achalgarh; the upper part of it was built by the Paramaras and added to by Rana Kumbha of Mewar when he took shelter here in the fifteenth century. The view from the top is very fine, but the objects of interest within the fort are few, namely; two Jain temples, both much modernised, equestrian statues of Rana Kumbha and his son Uda or Udai Karan; and a double reservoir called *Sawan-Bhadon* (August-September). The upper storey of the temple has four icons of Parasnath and the lower three, made of *Panch-Dhatu* (five metals). The other temple contains icons of Shantinath, Neminath, Parasnath (2), Adinath (2) and Shambhunath. The inner walls of the chamber have painting gallery depicting scenes of famous places of Hindu pilgrimages in fast colours.

*Guru Sikhar*.—A diversion from the Oria village which is on the way to Achalgarh from Delwara, leads to the tract to Guru Shikhar (the saint's pinnacle). After a mile's journey through sand, the ascent begins and continues for about two miles through tortuous, zig-zag path before the summit is reached. During the first part of the journey, solitary woman or lonely child with a pitcher full of water, can be met with along the track who is

ready to sell a tumbler of water to the visitor. Sometimes curd or whey is also available in the thatched houses nearby. In the latter part, rugged boulders and cactus bushes are the common sight. The whole journey is refreshingly tiresome.

The peak is 5,650 feet above sea level and 400 feet higher than any other peak in Abu. The view from the top is magnificent, and was thus described by Tod:—"At length Surya (the sun) burst forth in all his majesty, and chasing away the sable masses, the eye swept over the desert until vision was lost in the blending of the dark-blue vault with the dusky arid soil. All that was required to form the sublime was at hand, and silence confirmed the charm. If the eye, diverted from the vast abyss beneath, turned but half a circle to the right, it rested on the remains of the castle of the Paramaras, whose dusky walls refused to reflect the sunbeams; a little further to the right rose the clustering domes of Delwara, backed by noble woods and buttressed on all sides by fantastic pinnacles, shooting like needles from the crest of the plateau, on whose surface were seen meandering several rills pursuing their devious course over the precipitous faces of the mountain. All was contrast the blue sky and sandy plain, the marble fanes and humble wigwags, the stately woods and rugged rocks." The cavernous weather-worn side of the summit has, with the help of masonry and a little wooden door, been formed into a small shrine to the memory of Datu Brijha, a sage whose footprints, carved upon a bench of rock within, are presided over by a row of dissolute looking *ganapatis* (elephant-headed gods). Similar footprints, said to be those of Ramanand (a great Vishnuito preacher of the fourteenth century) are pointed out a little further off, and down below, at the base of the rock, is a great bell, suspended to a wooden frame and having a Gujarati inscription dated 1411 A.D.

At a short distance is the temple of Atri Rishi, the sanctum has an icon in a sitting posture which is made of white marble. Another temple nearby is that of Anusua, where she is shown in a standing posture having four arms and Rishi Dattatreya is shown standing at her feet.

It is noteworthy that a thatched hut is maintained by an individual just near the summit and indigenous food is available here, payment for which is not compulsory but donation in cash and kind are not refused. Shelter is also provided here at odd hours.

**Gao Mukh.**—There is a metalled road from Nakhi to the temple of Hanumanji from whence ascent starts for Gao Mukh. The path is haphazard, mango, *karunda*, mulberry and lemon trees are in abundance. Then there is a sudden steep with rudely-constructed steps. The first object on reaching the bottom is an old tank, supplied with water from a spout, shaped-like a cow's head, hence the name, Gao Mukh. The tank was, according to an inscription it bears, repaired in 1819 by one Guman Singh, but it is of course much older than this. Close by is the temple of Vashistha. It is a plain bricked edifice, surrounded by a wall, with Vashistha's shrine in the centre of the quadrangle, and an inscription tells us that it was erected in 1337 by Mahadeo Parhi, under the patronage of Karan Deo son of Tej Singh, the Chauhan ruler of Chandravati. In front of the temple is a cenotaph containing a brass figure of Dharavarsha, the last of the Paramara chief of these parts, who is represented as turning in an attitude of supplication to the *Muni* and asking to be forgiven for having doubted the truth of the story about Siva's toe. The people however, say that the statue is that of the god Indra. Numerous images, one of which is of Buddha with a rosary in his hand, and is dated 1267, will be found lying about, but perhaps the most interesting, and certainly the oldest, object is the fire-pit, where the *Agniculus* are said to have been created.

### Abu Road

A town (also called Kharari) in the south of Sirohi, situated in  $24^{\circ} 29' N.$  and  $72^{\circ} 47' E.$  on the left bank of western Banas river. Formerly it was a station on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, now on the Delhi-Ahmedabad route of western railways, 465 miles from Delhi and 425 from Bombay and is a terminus for the hill station of Abu. The population increased from 4,438 in 1891 to 6,661 in 1901 and 12,544 in 1951. The present (1961) population is 17,728 (9,454 males and 8,274 females). It is a tahsil and Panchayat Samiti headquarters, has modern amenities like schools, hospitals cinema houses, rest houses, police station and a municipal committee.

### Ajari

About three miles south of Pindwara on the way to Abu Road, is the village of Ajari. Five furlong north-west

of it, is a temple of Mahadeo. The scenery is picturesque, honey-combed with date-trees and a small rivulet flows nearby. Small hillocks form a wonderful background. The place is a fine picnic spot.

The temple is enclosed by a high wall. Inside it is a *baori* of 30'  $\times$  20' size. Markandeshwar Rishi is said to have meditated here. There is a small image of god Vishnu and one that of goddess Saraswati. Nearby is a pond commonly known *Gaya-Kund* where people immerse the mortal remains. On every *Jeshtha Sudi* 11 and *Baisakh Sudi* 15 a fair is held here.

### Chandravati

An ancient city, said to have once been eighteen miles in circuit, the remains are to be seen about four miles south-west of Abu Road and close to the left bank of the western Banas. The site is approachable by a road for about 3 miles (which during the rainy season is not very safe) and then by a *kuchha* diversion to the left for about a mile. Tradition assign it an earlier date than Dhar, making it the metropolis of western India when the Paramara was the paramount lord, and its prosperity seems to have lasted from the seventh to the beginning of the fifteenth century. The Paramaras had to make way for the Deora Chauhans in or about 1303. Chandravati ceased to be the capital of the Deoras by 1425 and, a few years later, its buildings and skilled craftsmen were carried off to enrich the city of Ahmedabad, founded by Ahmad Sab I of Gujarat (1411-42). Since then, the place has remained forsaken and desolate, and even its ruins, sold and removed as building materials, have all but disappeared.

In 1824 Sir Charles Colville and his party, the first European visitors to Chandravati, found twenty marble edifices of different sizes. One temple of Brahma was adorned with rich and finely executed sculptured figures and ornaments in high relief, many of the figures almost quite detached. The chief images were a three-headed male figure sitting on a car, with a woman on its knee and a large goose in front; two statues of Siva; one with twenty arms, the other with a buffalo on the left, the right foot raised and resting on a small eagle (*garud*); and a figure of death with twenty arms, one holding a human head by the hair. The best executed were the dancing nymphs, with garlands and musical instruments, many of them extremely graceful. Except the roof of the domes, whose outer

marble cover was gone, the temple was white marble throughout, the lustre of the prominent parts undimmed. Close by were two richly carved columns, supporting an entablature and sculptured pediment and probably triumphal pillars. When visited by Mr. Burgess the Director General of Archaeological Survey, in 1874, of the twenty buildings not more than three or four were left. At present, a number of beautiful marble images are enclosed in a fence under a date-tree amidst knee-up grass and not a single building is left now.

#### **Derasuri**

This is a place west of Sirohi Road near Siranwa hills. There are situated 14 Jain temples which are well known for their sculpture. The surrounding is beautiful.

#### **Erinpura**

A village situated on the left bank of Jawai river in  $25^{\circ} 9' N.$  and  $73^{\circ} 4' E.$ , it was a cantonment in State times, located about six miles from Erinpura Road station on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, now on Delhi-Ahmedabad railway line. For military purposes, it was included in the Nasirabad Brigade of the Mhow or 5th Division of the Southern Army. A brief history of the cantonment which was established in 1887 is as follows:—

By the eighth article of the treaty of 1818 the Jodhpur Darbar was bound to furnish a contingent of 1,500 horses for the service of the British Government when required, but the force thus supplied by it in 1832 proved so useless that the obligation was commuted in 1835 to an annual payment of Rs. 1,15,000 towards the maintenance of a corps which was raised by Captain Downing at Ajmer in 1835 and styled it as the Jodhpur Legion. It was located on the site of the present cantonment which the Commandant (the officer just mentioned) named it Erinpura after the island of his birth, Erin being the old name of Ireland. The Legion originally consisted of three troops of irregular cavalry, principally Musalmans from the Delhi district, and four companies of infantry, enlisted in or about Oudh, but the strength of the infantry was subsequently increased to eight companies, to which were attached, two 9 pounder guns drawn by camels, and three companies of Bhils were added in 1841. The corps did good service in Rewara in 1839 by

assisting in breaking up a band of outlawed *Thakurs* of Marwar and their followers and it formed part of the force which occupied Jodhpur city in the same year.

Shortly after the Mutiny, a new corps was raised, with the three Bhil companies of the old Legion as a nucleus, and on the 12th June 1860 it was gazetted as the Erinpura Irregular Force. It was composed of a squadron of cavalry, mainly Sikhs, numbering 164 of all ranks, and eight companies of infantry numbering 712; the latter were mostly Bhis and Minas, the object being to afford occupation to the local tribes and thus wean them from their lawless habits. From the end of 1870 to 1881 the Commandant was in political charge of Sirohi, and detachments were on several occasions sent out to assist the local police in patrolling disturbed tracts, overawing outlaw *Thakurs*, and arresting dacoits. For example a small force proceeded against the *Thakur* of Bhatana in 1868, but he was not captured, in 1870-71 the greater portion of the regiment was employed on the Sirohi-Marwar border, where it had disagreeable outpost and patrol duties, all efficiently performed. In April 1872 a detachment made an unexpected night attack on the village of Rewara, surprised the rebellious *Thakur*, and carried him off to Erinpura. On this same occasion fifty-two Mina thieves were captured and four who resisted were killed. At the commencement of the rains of 1882 another night march (on the village of Alpa, eight miles to the west of the cantonment) resulted in the arrest of seven famous dacoits, besides some fifty other men charged with minor offences. Lastly, in 1883, a portion of the regiment formed part of the Bikaner Field Force, directed from Nasirabad under the late General Gillespie against certain recalcitrant nobles of that State.

In 1895 the strength of the squadron was reduced from 164 to 100 of all ranks, and in 1897 the force which had till then been under the Foreign Department of the Government of India, was placed under the Commander-in-Chief; lastly, in October 1903 it was renamed the 43rd (Erinpura) Regiment. At present, the place has no importance whatsoever.

### **Jhadoli**

Jhadoli is about 12 miles towards Pindwara from Sirohi and contains a Jain temple dedicated to Shantinatha. Like most Jain temples, it stands in a court and is surrounded by



a row of subsidiary cells and corridors. In the ante-chamber is a large slab, built in the wall, with an inscription of the reign of the Paramara King Dharavarsha, and is dated in *Samvat* 1255 *Asoja Sudi* 7 *Budhavdre*, which corresponds, to Wednesday the 9th September A.D. 1198. From the inscription it appears that the temple was originally dedicated to Mahavira, and not to Shantinatha, as it is at present. The inscription records that some orchard land was granted to the temple by Srimgra Devi, queen of Dharavarsha. The interior of the temple is of no particular interest. Its pillars and arches, resemble in style those of the temple of Vimala Sah on Mount Abu.

#### Jirawal

A place 26 miles north-west of Abu Road and five miles in the same direction from Reodar, is an attraction due to Jain temple which is said to be 300 years old.

#### Karodidhwaj temple

This place can be reached from Abu down-hills about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles as well as from Sirohi via Anadra, a distance of about 24 miles south-east of Sirohi town. Just near its entrance porch is a figure of a *banjara* who is said to have amassed crores of rupees and built this temple. Formerly there were the images of Siva, Brahma and Vishnu and a goddess seated on a lion. But today it is a ruin and some other structures in a dilapidated form are visible nearby.

Not far from here (about a mile and half), at the foot of a mountain, were the dilapidated temples of Devan-gana or court of gods. Traditions are current that on this site stood an ancient city called Lakhnagar. Two *mandaps* made of bricks are the only remains of these and those too in a ruinous state. There is an inscription on the entrance on one of these. The images which were found here are carried away to a temple on the main road to Anadra village. Round about these ruins can be noticed bricks of unusual dimensions buried in the ground and pointing to the antiquity of the place. The spot is in the midst of a thick bamboo jungle with tall magnificent trees.

#### Kolar Ambeshwar

A place about six miles north of Sirohi on a side track of the metalled road from Sirohi to Shaoganj. There is a temple of Siva. Being amidst the

hillocks and small rivulets flowing nearby, the place is a picnic spot.

#### Matarmata

A place in the hills near Sirohi town and is approachable by a dangerously winding path. The scenery is picturesque, small rivulets and tall trees make the place more beautiful. There is also a temple.

#### Mungthala

About four miles west of Abu Road is the village of Mungthala in the vicinity of which stand three temples. One of these seems to have been dedicated to Mahavira and belongs to 15th century. Another which is half a mile from the village is dedicated to Mahadeo. The wall mouldings refer it to the 10th century. However, the roof of the temple is a much later work. The third, about a mile from the village is an old temple dedicated to Madhusudana. The temple faces the west and is situated in a walled enclosure. The doors of the shrine and the closed hall are elaborately sculptured but are so thickly encrusted with whitewash of several years as to render it impossible to recognise the figures. The exterior of the temple is plain, the *Sikhara* is old and of Gujarat style.

#### Pindwara

A few furlongs from Sirohi Road station, it is situated at latitude  $24^{\circ} 48'$  north and longitude  $73^{\circ} 3'$  east. It had a population of 6,521 in 1951 which increased to 7,726 (3,922 males and 3,804 females) in 1961. The place has modern amenities like schools, hospital, post office, police station and a municipality. It is the headquarters of tahsil and Panchayat Samiti.

There is also an old temple here originally dedicated to Sun god, but now an image of Laxminarayan has been installed instead. Opposite to the shrine is a lotus-shaped *chakra*.

#### Reodar

A place situated at latitude  $24^{\circ} 36'$  north and longitude  $72^{\circ} 33'$  east, is connected by road to Sirohi. Headquarters of the tahsil and Panchayat Samiti of the same name are located here.

#### Rohera

It is a village on the way to Sirohi Road from Sirohi and has three temples of some archaeological interest, two outside and one in the village. Of the former, the first is of *Thakurji* (Vishnu) which faces the east and

appears to have originally dedicated to Sun. The exterior is plain. The hall contains the figures of Siva, Parvati and Kalki while within the shrine are the images of Rama, Sita and Laxmana. The second temple lies to the south-east of the village and is dedicated to Rajeshwar Mahadeo. The spire is built of bricks, coated with plaster. The domical roof is comparatively of recent date and rests octagonally upon short pillars. The shrine—a *lingam*—is worshipped daily. The third temple that of Laxminarayan facing east is in the village. The shrine has a conjoint image of Vishnu and Laxmi.

#### Saruganj .

A good grain mandi, the place is approachable by road as well as train from Abu Road and Sirohi.

#### Sarneshwar temple

About two miles to the north of Sirohi is the famous temple of Shri Sarneshwarji. The temple stands in the centre of a fortified enclosure said to have been erected by Musalman king of Malwa, who was cured of a leprous disease by bathing in a *kund* or reservoir of water nearby. It appears to have been built 500 years ago. Lt. Col. Tod remarks "At this point, we approached the shrine of Sarneshwar, around which are congregated the mausolea of the princes and chieftains of Sirohi. The original object of attraction is a *coonda*, or fountain, whose waters are efficacious in contagious diseases; and this, as are most of the thermal springs of India, was dedicated to Siva. The temple has a vaulted roof, supported by columns; the shape of the dome is peculiar to this region, being the section of an egg, the smaller portion placed perpendicularly on the longer axis. Within is the phallic emblem of the god; and without, a ponderous trident, full twelve feet in height, and said to be a combination of the seven metals. Two elephants carved in stone, guard the entrance, and the whole is surrounded by a fortified wall, erected by the Islamite King of Mandoo, who is reported to have been cured of a leprous disease, called *koda*, by bathing in the fountain. Miracle or no miracle, that the use of the waters is beneficial, is sufficiently attested by his having repaired and endowed the temple, inspite of the prohibition of the prophet. The present type of the 'Lord of the Bull', is not the original, which together with an ancient inscription, was carried to Mewar and inaugurated into a new temple. The cenotaphs of the Deoras are very curious, both in their architectural form and details, and what is unusual, each

has separate inscriptions; that of the father of the present prince has miniature shrine within the mausoleum, beside which is a small equestrian statue of the deceased; but that of Rao Guj is the most conspicuous, having four *Satis*, besides a train of his vassal Rajpoots, represented in *basso relieve* on the internal altar, they are armed with sword and shield." The shrine is the tutelary deity of the chiefs of Sirohi.

#### Sheoganj

A town in the north-east of the Sirohi town is situated at latitude 25° 08' N. and longitude 73° 04' E., on the left bank of the Jawai river. The town takes its name from Rao Sheo Singh who founded it in 1854 A.D. It had importance due to nearby Erinpura cantonment in State times. The population in 1891 was 1,607 which increased to 4,361 in 1901 and 5,720 in 1951. Today (1961) it has a population of 9,766 (4,943 males and 4,823 females). The town has usual amenities like hospital, schools, post office and police outpost etc. The place was one of the chief trade centres of the State and supplied the needs of the cantonment and adjoining villages of Jodhpur. Even today it is one of the important grain *mandis* of the district. The Panchayat Samiti and tahsil headquarters are also located here. The town has a Municipal Committee.

#### Sirohi

Now the district headquarters, the town was the capital of the State and was founded in 1425 A.D. by Rao Sainsmal. The town which is situated at latitude 24° 53' N. and longitude 72° 53' E., and is connected by a metal road about 17 miles long with Sirohi Road railway station on Western Railways, is said to take its name from the Saranwa hill, on the western slope of which it stands. The population increased from 5,699 in 1881 to 6,207 in 1891 and then fell to 5,651 in 1901 but again rose to 11,956 in 1951 and to 14,451 (7,504 males and 6,947 females) in 1961.

The town abounds in Jain temples and no less than 16 still exist. The Hindu temples, four or five in number, call for no special comments.

Usual modern amenities like college, schools, hospitals, libraries, parks, clubs (there is one well known club called Sarup Club) etc. are available.

It is also headquarters of a sub-division, tahsil and of Panchayat Samiti of the same name. Many important

offices like District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner, Excise and Taxation etc. are located here. The town has a municipality since 1921.

#### Vasa

More than a mile to the north-east of Rohera is the village of Vasa, on the outskirts of which is a fine temple of *Surya* (the sun god) of the eleventh or twelfth century. The village itself has a curious temple with a *lingam* in the shrine and the image of *Tirthankar* above the door thereof; it seems that there was a feud between the Brahmans and Jains as to which form of religion should prevail, and that the former won the day, the building being sacred to Mahadev.

About two miles north of Vasa is the famous *tirth* called *Jamdagni* popularly believed to be the *Ashram* of famous *Jamdagni* Rishi. The temple which is known as *Jamdagni* temple is actually a Shiva temple. A tank near the shrine is called *Mandakini*, and is piously resorted to for performing *Shradhas* to deceased ancestors. Hindus assemble here during *Jyestha* on the eleventh of the bright fortnight. Two images lying outside the temple bear inscription dated 1303 V. E. (1246 A.D.) showing that the temple must have existed before that date.

There was a village named Kalagara about two miles from Vasa containing a Jain temple of Parasnath. The village and the temple have both disappeared and only traces of the foundation of some houses are seen here and there.

#### Vasantgarh

An old fort, situated on a hill about five miles south of Pindwara railway station and surrounded by ramparts of undressed stone and rubble, extending from north-west to south-east for at least a mile and a half. The temples and inscriptions found here leave no doubt that the place is of great antiquity. To the west of the fort and perched on a hillock is the small shrine of *Khimel Mata*. An inscription found here dated 625 A.D. tells that, while Rajjila, a feudatory of Raja Varmalat (or Char-malat) and ruler of the territory round about Abu, was reigning at *Vatakara* or *Vata*, i.e., Vasantgarh, a temple to the goddess *Kshemarya* was erected by a trader of the name of Satyadeva at the direction of the town council. There can be little doubt that the *Kshemarya* of this inscription is *Khimel Mata*, near whose shrine the stone was discovered.

Near the foot of the hill on which the fort stands is a group of temples which are well-nigh destroyed; the central one appears to have been dedicated to Siva and is in a fair state of preservation, but the others are almost total wrecks. A little to the north-west is an old step-well, where an inscription of the time of Purna Pal was found, and on the other side of the well, in a small *chhatra*, is an image of *Sesh Shayya Narayana* with Brahma being born from his navel. The inscription records that the well, which was called *Saraswati*, was repaired and restored in 1042 by Lahini, the widowed sister of the Paramara king Purnapala who was ruling at *Vatapura* (*Vasantgarh*). To the north-east of the Sivaite temple above referred to are the remains of one to Brahma which is certainly not later than the seventh century: the shrine contains a standing life-size image of the god, with three faces and a nimbus behind them, but with only two hands holding a rosary and a water-pitcher. In the vicinity is a cluster of ruined temples inside a courtyard; the principal is dedicated to *Surya* at least it is thought so, as there is a figure of the sun on the gateway of the enclosure and is of about the same age as that of Brahma. These are, it is believed, the oldest remains at *Vasantgarh*. Further to the east stands a Jain temple of the fifteenth century, in which is an image with an inscription telling us that it was installed at *Vasantapura* in the reign of *Kumbhakarna* in 1450. Excavations carried out some years ago brought to light the existence of certain brass images under the hall; they were presented by the Maharao to the Jains of *Pindwara*, by whom they were placed in the temple to *Mahavira* there. Most of these images are undoubtedly old, and one of *Rakhabhnath* has an inscription dated 744 which, if referred to the *Vikrama* era, is equivalent to A. D. 687.

From the above account it will be seen that *Vasantgarh* is a very ancient place. Up to the end of the eleventh century it was known by the name *Vata*, *Vatakara* and *Vatapura*, but in the fifteenth century it was called *Vasantapura*, which is the same as the modern *Vasantgarh* except that in the one it is called a city (*pura*) and in the other a fort (*garh*). It is clear from the inscription found near *Khimel Mata's* temple that the city was in existence long before the first half of the seventh century, and the *Raja Varmalat* (or *Charmalat*) mentioned therein, was perhaps the paramount sovereign of western *Rajputana* who ruled

at Bhinmal, a town now in the Jalore district of Rajasthan, and the Pi-lo-mo-lo of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang (629-45). Nothing further is known of Vasantgarh till 1042, when it was the capital of a Paramara king of the name of Purna Pal. From the inscription of Lahini's well we, however, learn that the country of *Vata* was formerly governed by Bhavagupta, who was one of the predecessors of Vighraharaja, the deceased husband of Lahini. A third inscription informs us that in the middle of the fifteenth century Vasantapura was in the dominions of the Guhila (Gahlot) king Kumbhakarna.

The place was, it is believed, called *Vata* because it abounded with *vata* or banian trees which, as a matter of fact, are still fairly numerous, though many died during the famine of 1899-1900. Lahini's inscription confirms this view by telling us that in days of yore the country was a mere forest, and that under the *nyagrodha* or banian trees there stood the sacrificial hermitage of Vasistha. There, in the jungle, Vasistha erected temples to *Arka* and *Bharga* and, with the aid of the architect of the gods, founded a city called *Vata*, adorned with ramparts, orchards, tanks and lofty mansions. The temples to *Arka* and *Bharga* are those of *Surya* and *Brahma* (mentioned above) and the fact that they are represented to have been constructed by Vasistha shows that they were regarded as of very early age, even in 1042 A.D. The inscription further says that the temple to the sun was originally built by *Vasisthapura* (the people of the city of Vasistha) but, becoming dilapidated in the time of Purna Pal, was repaired by his sister Lahini this perhaps refers to the *sikhara* or spire, which seems to be of later period than the rest of the structure.

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## GLOSSARY

<i>Nakkara</i>	Kettledrum
<i>Nakshatras</i>	Planets
<i>Nazranā</i>	A present or gift; also sum paid by revenue assig- nees to the State in recognition of their grants.
<i>Odhani</i>	A mantle, a costume of females.
<i>Parda</i>	Same as purdah, a curtain, especially for screening women's apartments, a veil.
<i>Pativrata</i>	A devoted and faithful wife.
<i>Sahukar</i>	A money lender and banker.
<i>Sanyasi</i>	A Hindu who has renounced the world, a general term for a religious ascetic.
<i>Sharbat</i>	A sweet drink.
<i>Shraddha</i>	Same as Sraddha, an offering to the manes of an ancestor.
<i>Sikhara</i>	Spire.
<i>Surahi</i>	A long necked earthen water pot.
<i>Taccavi</i>	An advance of money given by the State to culti- vators for agricultural purposes.
<i>Thakur</i>	A chieftain.
<i>Tirth</i>	A holy place of Hindus, a place of pilgrimage.
<i>Tirthankaras</i>	Supreme being in Jainism.
<i>Yajna</i>	A sacrificial ritual.
<i>Ashram</i>	A hermitage.
<i>Baht</i>	A ledger, a book of accounts.
<i>Baori</i>	A pond.
<i>Begar</i>	Forced labour.
<i>Bhajan</i>	Religious or devotional recitals among Hindus.
<i>Bidi</i>	Indian cigarettes, tobacco rolled in leaves.
<i>Bir</i>	Forest area.
<i>Chakra</i>	A wheel.
<i>Daroga</i>	An official of the excise department.
<i>vyas</i>	A demon.
	Drum,

<i>Hasal</i>	Land revenue.
<i>Hukka</i>	Same as hooka or hookah, the water-tobacco pipe of Arabs.
<i>Hundi</i>	A bill of exchange, an indigenous system of draft and cheque.
<i>Istamaradar</i>	Permanently settled assignee.
<i>Khalas</i>	Land directly managed by the State.
<i>Kirtan</i>	A gathering for devotional songs.
<i>Kos</i>	A measurement of distance, approximately two miles.
<i>Kotwal</i>	A police official sometimes exercising judicial powers also.
<i>Mandap</i>	A dome over a temple, a canopy.
<i>Mandi</i>	A mart.
<i>Misals</i>	Files.
<i>Mlechha</i>	A barbarian, a sinful person.

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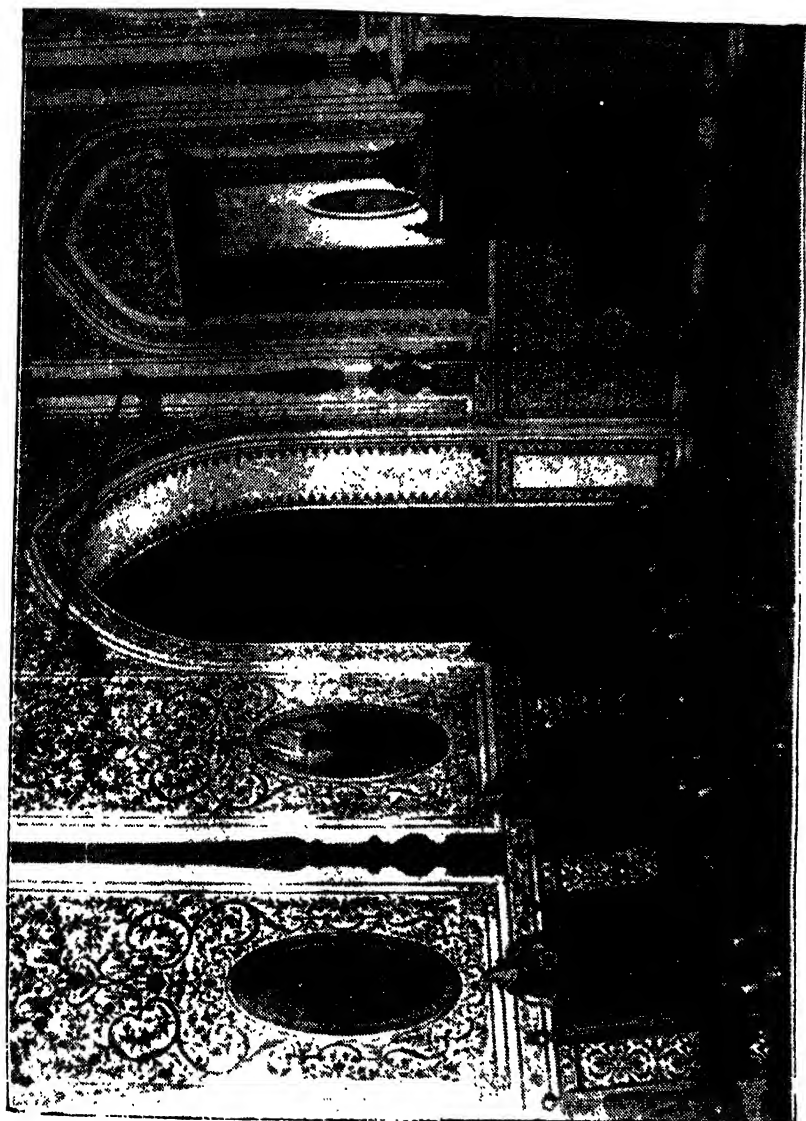
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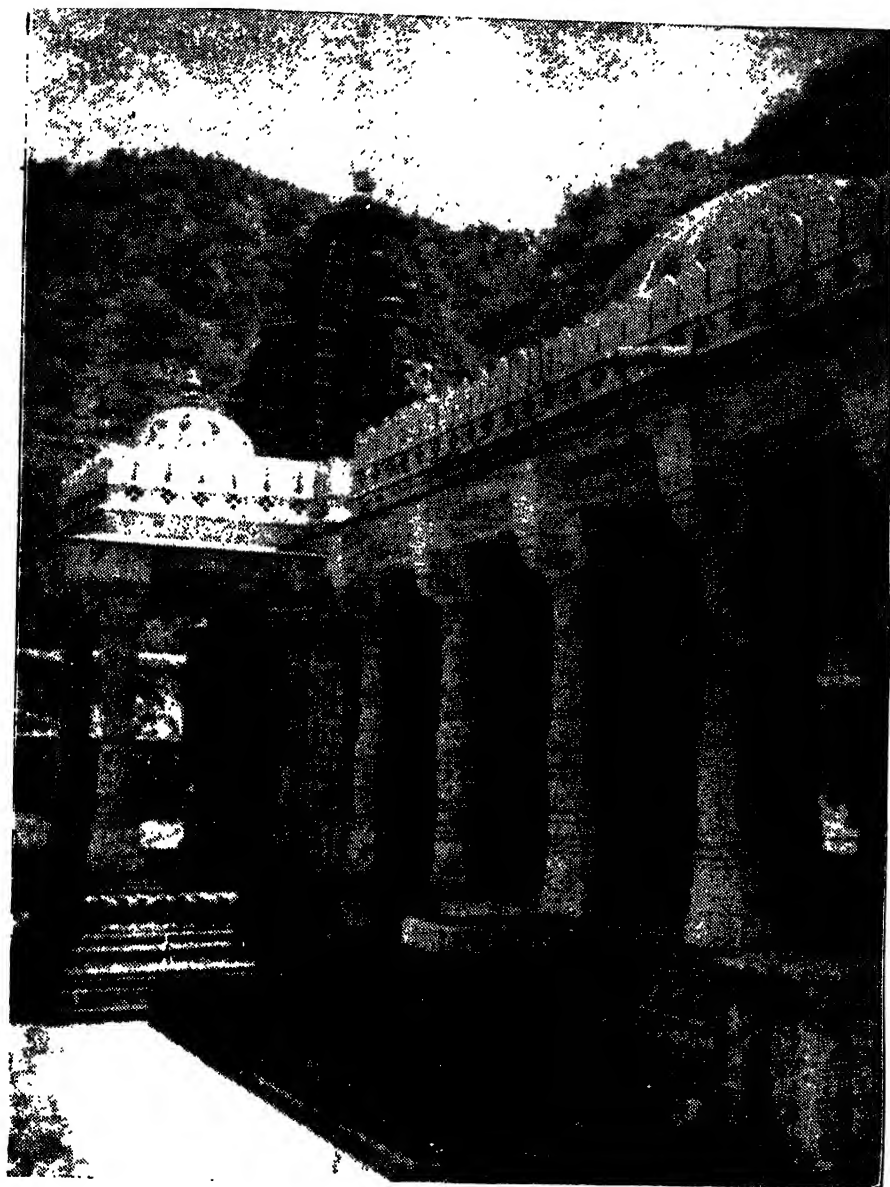
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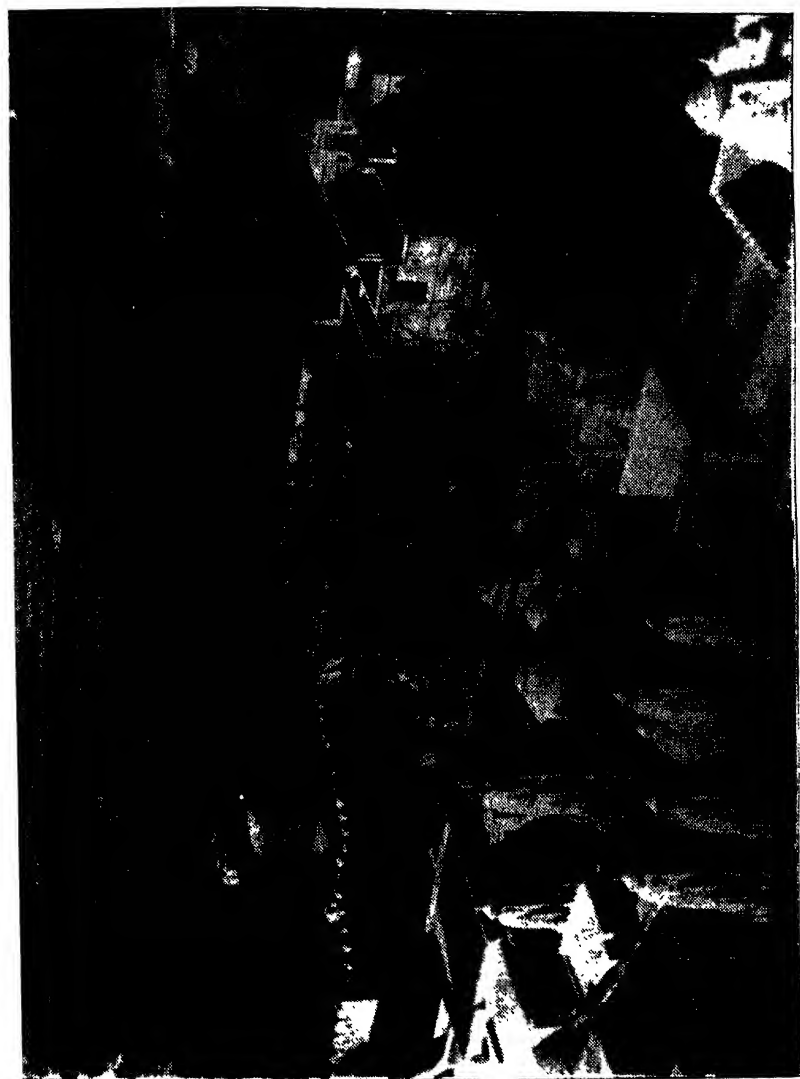






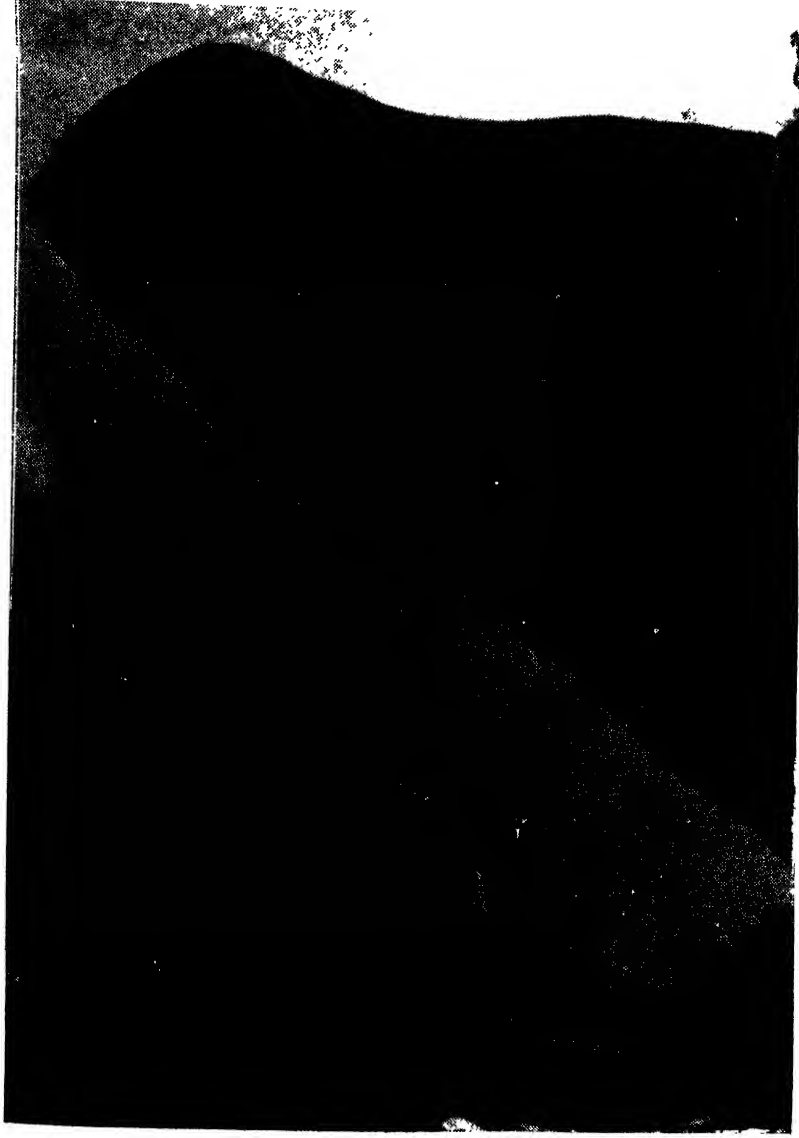
*Remains of Chandravati*





*A view of City of Sirohi*





*Guru Shikhar*

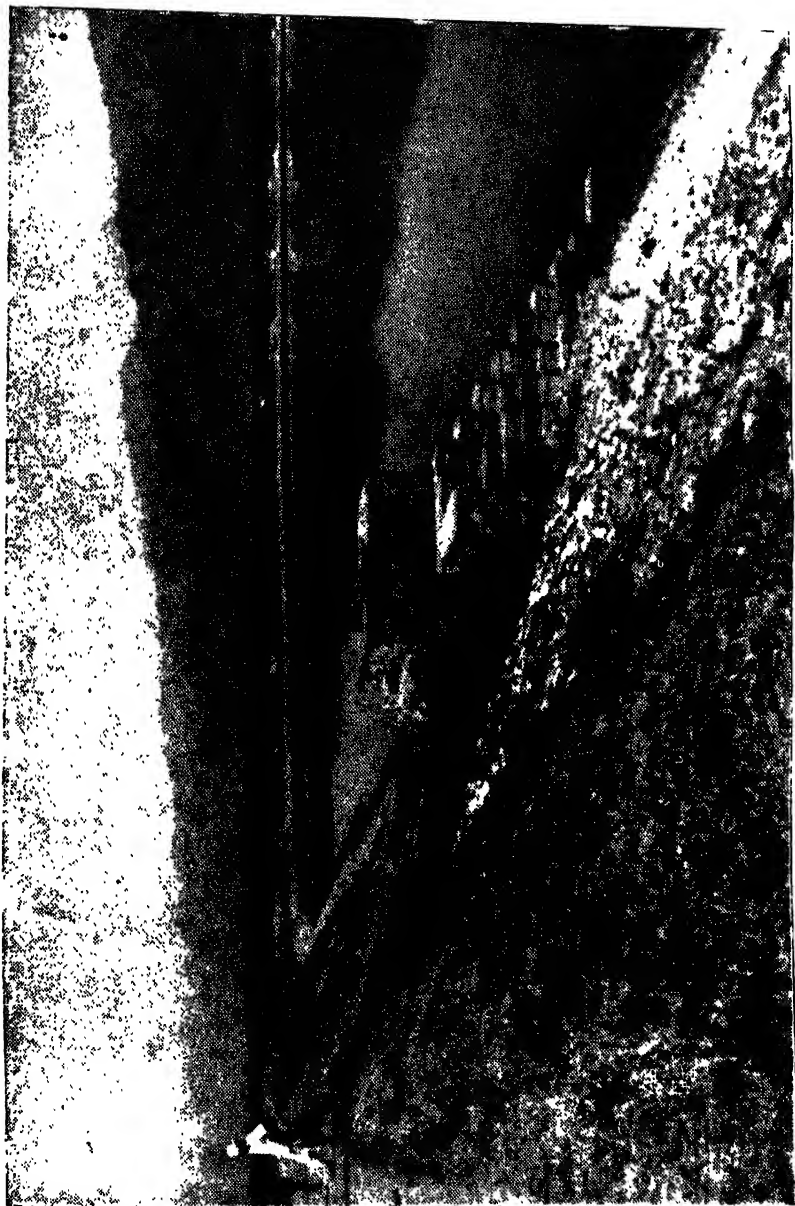




*Sirohi Fort*







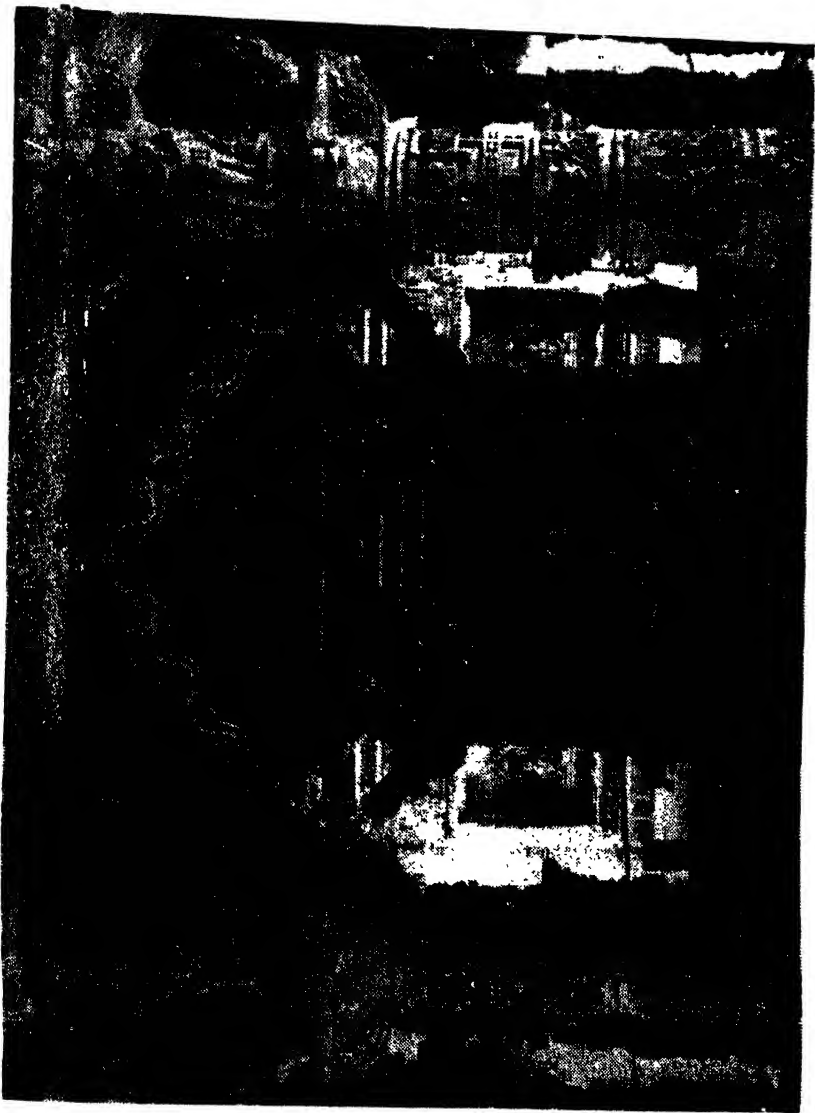
*Banas Project in Swarupganj Village*





*Achalgarh*





*Dethwara Temple*



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76	Sub-heading	Maharao Keshri Sing	Maharao Keshri-Singh
84	25	Barbut	Barlut
137	1 below table I	carefu	careful
198	28	Sarwara	Sanwara
265	24	boundries	boundaries
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401	9	ari geven	are given
413	15	Elopement	elopement
413	Chapter Heading	<b>PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS</b>
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415	Chapter line	<b>PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS</b>